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SEPTEMBER 28, 2000 [53.8]

# Martlet

LOCAL MUSICIAN:

## Clay George

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photo by Richard Warrington

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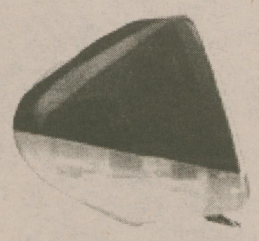

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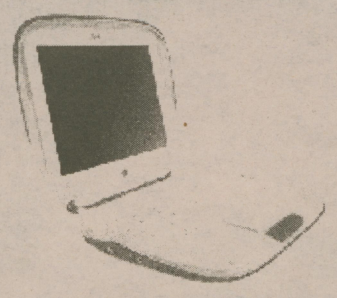

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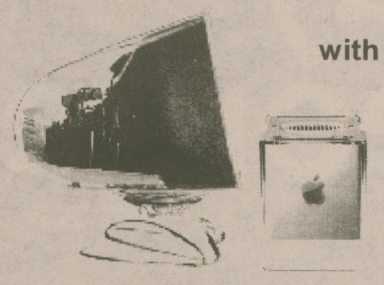

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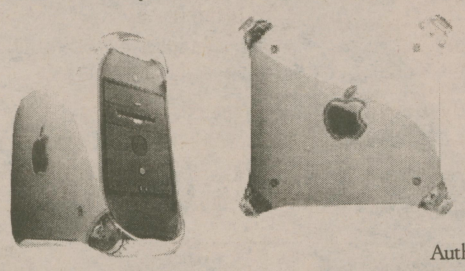

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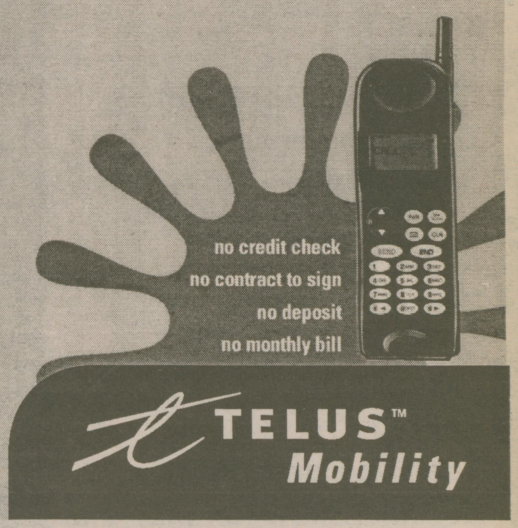


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# Panhandlers hope for change in local bylaw

## City Council to reconsider legislation after Winnipeg decision

by Sarah Glen

photo by Sarah Glen

A decision early last week in Winnipeg to scrap the city's panhandling bylaw is being touted as a victory by anti-poverty activists who hope the move will be a model for change here in Victoria.

Victoria's panhandling bylaw – approved by city council in June 1999 – was modeled after Winnipeg's bylaw and makes it illegal for panhandlers to ask for money near bank machines, bus stops and other public areas.

"I'm happy when I see justice served, not 'just us,'" said Reverend Al Tysick of the Open Door, a support program for street people.

Tysick says Victoria's bylaw is "ridiculous" and is just an attempt by city council to appease local business owners.

"Condemning beggars goes back in history, and it's a sad thing to see the same thinking in a 'progressive' society like ours that claims to be Christian," he said.

Stephanie Shambil, an 18-year-old panhandler living in Victoria, is also happy with the Winnipeg decision.

"I think it's great that Winnipeg moved to throw out the bylaw," Shambil said. "It's a decision that shows that peoples' attitudes are changing."

> "I think it's great that Winnipeg moved to throw out the bylaw. It's a decision that shows that people's attitudes are changing."
>
> *Stephanie Shambil, local panhandler*

Shambil started panhandling six months ago after she lost her job in Sooke.

"Panhandling is degrading and it's a means to survive – it's not a way to make a living," she said.

Victoria will be taking a closer look at its own panhandling bylaw next week, said Helen Hughes, city councillor responsible for the downtown core.

"Right now it's pretty much up in the air," she said.

Hughes will be comparing Victoria's bylaw to Winnipeg's to see if changes need to be made.

"Our primary concern is safety for everyone and aggressive panhandling puts residents at risk," Hughes said.

Victoria's bylaw may be amended to focus on individual behaviours, not panhandling in general, she said.

But while bylaw changes may be in the works, Victoria Police Department Const. Glen Shiels is skeptical of whether any municipal bylaw would be effective.

"As it stands right now, the bylaw has no teeth," Shiels said. "Panhandlers are breaking a municipal bylaw, not the criminal code, and police officers enforce the criminal code."

Right now, police officers can only ask panhandlers to move.

"We don't actively pursue them unless we have a direct complaint," Shiels said.

And it's this lack of action that has one Victoria resident frustrated.

"No one wants to see starving people on our streets, but it's pretty frustrating when you are targeted constantly," said Don Brodeur.

Brodeur says that Winnipeg's decision focuses too much on panhandlers' rights and not enough on residents' rights.

"It's a freedom of speech and expression issue until it infringes on my rights," he said.

# Victoria rally denounces 'for-profit' healthcare

by Chris Westendorf

> The biggest danger to universal Medicare is allowing any for-profit organization to enter the system.
>
> *Kathleen Connor, president of the Canadian Federation of Nurses*

Two hundred concerned citizens converged on Centennial Square Saturday afternoon to show their support for universally accessible, publicly funded Medicare.

Organized by the Victoria chapter of the Canadian Health Coalition, the rally's stated goals were "to improve, preserve and protect health care."

"The biggest danger to universal Medicare is allowing any for-profit organization to enter the system," Kathleen Connor, president of the Canadian Federation of Nurses and chair of the National Healthcare Coalition, told the crowd.

A decade of federal funding cuts have left Canada's hospitals strained and vulnerable to criticism. Waitlists for crucial diagnostic tests, bed shortages, and chronic understaffing are all too common.

Last spring, Alberta's legislature passed controversial "Bill 11," making private, overnight clinics eligible for public funds.

Many say moves towards privatization undermine the core principles of universal Medicare, converting it into an American-style system where the 'haves' receive outstanding healthcare while the 'have-nots' suffer. As estimated 40 million Americans are without medical coverage.

Joanne Neubauer, a former UVic student suffering from rheumatoid arthritis who now heads the Action Committee for People with Disabilities, spoke of the essential role our health system plays in allowing her to lead a normal life.

From Centennial Square, a march proceeded to the legislature where the participants heard from Summer McFayden, chairperson of the University of Victoria Students' Society.

"The role of the UVSS is representing our members in the fight for a quality, universally accessible health system," McFadyen said.

Other speakers at the rally included Peg Orcherton, president of the Victoria Healthcare Coalition; Christine Burdett, representing the Alberta group Friends of Medicare; and Colleen Fuller, author of the book "Caring for Profit."

photo by Richard Warrington

**Victoria residents dial "9-1-1" for Medicare.**

# AIDS specialists meet in South Africa

**by Lawrence Loiseau**

It was a long and heated summer in South Africa but the long-standing dispute between scientists concerning HIV/AIDS has been extinguished said the University of Victoria's Stephen Owens, a professor at the Institute for Dispute Resolution, and chair of South Africa's contoversial "President Mbeki's Expert Panel on AIDS."

"The link between AIDS and HIV is almost certain now," Owens said.

"All the evidence points to the fact that HIV causes AIDS in North America and Africa. It is an epidemiological link which is incontrovertible."

Professor Owens chaired Mbeki's panel through a series of heated meetings charged with analyzing the role and exact nature of AIDS in South Africa. The meetings started in Pretoria, the nation's capital, in May and progressed in Johannesburg, concluding just prior to the thirteenth International Convention on AIDS held in the city of Durban July 9 to 15. It was the first time a developing nation had ever hosted the annual conference.

At the conference, President Mbeki reignited the decade-old debate over whether HIV causes AIDS.

The controversy began when he named dissenting scientists like Dr. Peter Duesberg, a cancer specialist from the University of Berkeley, to sit on the 38-member panel.

Dr. Duesberg is known for opposing the standard theory on the cause of the AIDS virus, arguing that HIV is not a factor. Further, he suggests that AZT treatment has caused the death of many AIDS patients.

AZT is one of the few anti-HIV drugs that cross the blood-brain barrier. HIV infects cells in the blood stream, the lymph system, and the central nervous system (CNS). The first anti-HIV drug approved for use in the United States, some say AZT is better than most other drugs in attacking the virus in the CNS.

However, Dr. Duesberg's theories have been dismissed repeatedly by the scientific community.

But Professor Owens, UVic's conflict-resolution specialist, explained that Mbeki found it necessary to include the dissenting scientists in the panel's discussions.

"South Africa was faced with a myriad of unique problems. Combined with the fact that South Africa is actually ten years behind other African countries – such as Uganda and Senegal – in addressing its AIDS problem, 10 per cent of the population or 4.5-million people in South Africa are infected with the HIV virus," Owens said.

Africa's position is also unique because of the existence of cholera, malaria, dysentery and other diseases that actively suppress the immune system.

This creates an overlapping of symptoms making a diagnosis more difficult. These ambiguities have in the past provided dissenting views with a measure of credibility.

He adds that both South Africa and Mbeki are now taking the AIDS issue very seriously. Mbeki's decision to include dissenting views allowed their opinions to be openly challenged in scientific debate.

Owens also gives credit to Helen Gayle, director of infectious diseases from the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, for ending the HIV-causes-AIDS debate.

Gayle gave a presentation arguing that HIV causes AIDS after which she offered Dr. Duesberg a one-year paid sabbatical work with her at the centre to verify the connection between HIV and AIDS.

Dr. Duesberg, who attended Gayle's presentation, agreed to visit Atlanta and view her findings. In an act of final support, M. Mgoba, chair of the South African Medical Commission, said he too would make the trip to Atlanta.

While Owens said the debate represents a victory of a kind, he insisted that poverty is the main factor contributing to the spread of AIDS and many other diseases in Africa. While it may be true that drugs like AZT are effective in combating AIDS, they are not only expensive but require a strong health infrastructure.

AZT attacks the virus but it may also ruthlessly affect the immune system in the process. Because the drug is so toxic, patients need home support and on-going treatment to face the ravaging side-effects, costs the majority of South Africans are unable to bear.

"Most South Africans do not earn more than one American dollar a day," Owens said.

The conference discussed the increased spread of AIDS due to intravenous drug use, not only in North America, but in Africa, India and throughout the developing world.

Dr. Chris Fraser, a family doctor specializing in inner-city medicine at the Victoria Cool Aid Society's Swift Street Medical Clinic, said this is due to cheaper intravenous drugs and needles across the globe.

A study released at the conference suggested a rise in both the US and Africa of heterosexual transmission among poor, black women of childbearing age – threatening the child both through birth and breast feeding. It linked the spread AIDS among these groups to the low social status of many black women and their poverty in both countires.

While much was discussed at this year's International Conference on AIDS, no concrete solutions emerged, and several questions remain: Can drug companies be persuaded to produce cheaper medicines and improved infant formula? Can governments be persuaded to both fund and produce the solutions necessary? Can the spread of the disease be halted and then reversed?

"The raised international awareness should motivate government and drug companies in the developing world to offer assistance to poor countires to deal with this castrophe," said Owens.

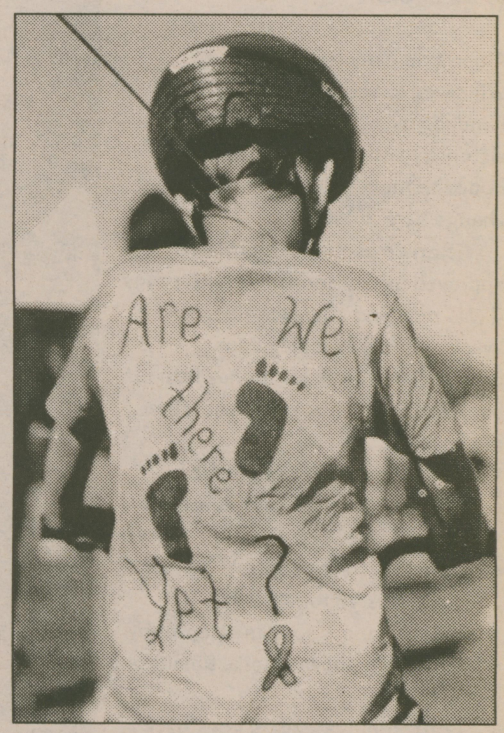


photo by Shaunna Lee Magotiaux

**A hopeful young participant at the annual AIDS Walk in Victoria**

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# Students blamed for Ring Road congestion

by Miguel R. MacDonald

The growing student population and increased campus traffic has motorists on the edge of their seats and Campus Security Services begging students to think before crossing Ring Road.

According to Campus Security, congestion is growing on Ring Road each year with more and more pedestrians, cars and buses coming to campus.

UVic now sees 300 buses per day, over 20 per cent more than last year, according to Wendal K. Milne, Manager of Transit Operations for BC Transit.

He was one of six people at a Sept. 26 meeting that brought representatives from campus security, ICBC and Campus Planning together to discuss the growing danger involved in traffic problems.

"It's a false sense of security that people have when the cross walk is painted," said Gordon Dash, Transportation and Parking Coordinator for Campus Security. "They take that safety and wear it on their sleeve." He explained that students often cross the road with seemingly little regard for traffic or their own safety.

> It's a false sense of security that people have when the crosswalk is painted
>
> *Gordon Dash, Transportation and Parking Coordinator*

"I don't think people are doing it maliciously," Milne said. "They just get caught up." He explained that students often cross Ring Road in droves and slow down the flow of traffic making buses as much as three minutes late. The busiest times seems to be from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. as morning students head for the bus depot and afternoon students arrive on campus.

Dash said that traffic delays on Ring Road contribute to frustration on the part of drivers, raise the number of possible accidents and contribute to road rage on campus. Seven traffic accidents involving pedestrians have been reported in the last three years, Dash said. Two injuries on BC Transit buses have resulted from drivers slamming on the brakes to avoid accidents. The quick motion has sent passengers hurling into the aisle of the bus.

But pedestrians are not solely responsible for making Ring Road a little precarious. Up to 3,700 cars pass through the Gordon Head entrance per day, said Kevin McTavish, Regional Coordinator of Community Services for ICBC. The insurance company's speed monitoring has shown that some cars approaching the Ring Road entrance have been clocked going as fast as 120 km per hour, McTavish said.

Dash said the university wants to be more proactive than reactive.

But solutions will not come easy. Restricting traffic on Ring Road and cutting down on the number of buses coming into UVic were both unattractive options at the meeting. Instead, the people present decided to launch an education campaign which will tentatively include posters in the Student Union Building, on bus shelters and on the signboards inside BC Transit buses.

Other solutions discussed were the use of crossing guards to control pedestrian traffic.

"I don't think I would want to be one of the crossing guards," said Greg Awai Director of Finance for the UVSS. He said that while some students would listen to the crossing guards others would disregard them and create further frustration.

A pedestrian-controlled traffic light was also proposed. But at a minimum cost of $40,000, the group was reluctant to pursue that option.

## on the spot

by Gillian Jerome

### Do you see discrimination against women in your daily life?

**Jason Templeton**
*PDPP education*
Yes. My wife was laid off when she was pregnant. If it was a male worker it wouldn't be an issue. That's discrimination.

**Tomoko Okada**
*4th year social work*
Being a woman, an immigrant and a member of a visible minority, it's a fact of life.

**Ellen Busby**
*biochemistry grad*
I don't. If anything, I see it the other way. Women are getting jobs because they're women, especially in the sciences.

**Zoe Bake-Paterson**
*3rd year writing*
It still exists in immigration policies. It's difficult for single women to come and start a life here in Canada.

# Sustainability Conference calls for students to "walk their talk"

by Stephanie de Villiers

Students from as far as the Yukon and Newfoundland came together this past week to attend the annual Sustainable Campuses Conference held at UVic and Royal Roads University.

Organized jointly by the UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP) and the Sierra Youth Commission, the conference offered students new suggestions on how to deal with problems like waste management and pollution on campus.

The conference is part of the youth coalition's two-year-old "Sustainable Campuses Project," which aims to make campuses greener and more socially responsible.

"Development that isn't sustainable, isn't development," commented UVic president David Turpin, one of the guest speakers at the conference. Turpin added that universities should take a leadership role when it comes to protecting the environment. He announced the appointment of a sustainability officer who will be responsible for advising the university on its practices. While the UVSP has long been working towards adopting and implementing environmental policies for UVic, none have been adopted yet.

Making environmentally sound choices that are economically viable is the challenge facing most if not all universities across Canada. But convincing fellow students of the need to change is not always an easy task. Kate Parizeau, a student at McMaster University in Ontario, she said her campus is struggling to get several existing environmental groups to work together.

> If you're asking people to change you have to be able to answer the question 'what's in it for me?'
>
> *Ann Dale, environmental activist*

"Right now, every group is afraid of stepping on somebody else's toes."

Heidi La joie, who is currently studying at McGill University in Montréal, feels that student unions should be more involved with advocating greener campuses. Everyone agreed that convincing universities to implement environmental policies was a priority.

"We need to adopt a new paradigm and promote progressive thinking among students," said Emily McGiffin, a UVic student attending the conference for the second year in a row. She added that sustainability is about more than just seeking alternative ways of dealing with waste.

Ann Dale, an environmental activist and professor of Environmental Studies at Royal Roads University, who spoke to the conference on Friday evening, offered a few words of advice based on her experience working for the Ministry of the Environment and the Federal Government on a variety of projects. Dale stressed the importance of trust and co-operation when one is looking to establish partnerships with institutions and organizations.

"If you're asking people to change you have to be able to answer the question 'what's in it for me?'" said Dale. "We're all animals; we all need to get to know each other."

Dale was instrumental in founding the National Round Table in March 1989. The Round Table originally consisted of a panel of 24 people who met regularly with cabinet ministers to discuss environmental issues. More recently, Dale has been involved in an energy efficiency project. Thanks to this endeavour, a number of schools belonging to the Association of Canadian Community Colleges have established energy management action plans.

"What we need are people who can think outside the box and who are prepared to walk their talk," Dale said.

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# Enough fueling around: it's time for low-impact transit

## While students complain, profs advocate alternatives to gasoline

by Ben Isitt

Are current gas prices breaking your bank account?

As *the Martlet* went to press, local gas stations had pumped the price of gasoline to 81.9 cents per litre.

"It makes it tough for the ordinary person to commute," said Kevin Hay, a second-year physical education student at UVic. "It's outrageous."

Hay lives in Esquimalt, a 25-minute drive from campus. It takes more than 45 minutes by bus, but with his weekly gas bill topping $125, Hay is beginning to question whether he can afford to drive to school.

"I'm going to have to start looking at other options," he said. "Park and take a bus, or something."

Gemma D'Attilio, beginning her first year in the social sciences, already made the decision to park her car. A Saltspring Island resident, she watched the prices soar at the pump over the summer from between 50 and 60 cents last spring.

"Gas prices are too high," D'Attilio said. "That's why I don't drive here. I take the bus because it's so much cheaper."

And while staff and students may gripe about high prices, to some it is a matter of livelihood.

The cost of diesel fuel has increased 75 per cent in Canada in the last year, slashing the income of many independent truckers who receive a fixed rate for their freight but have to buy their own fuel.

Last weekend, the 1,700-member National Truckers Association erected blockades around oil refineries in Ontario, demanding government action to ease their financial hardship.

They held off on their threat to block highways after the Ontario government and the shipping companies agreed to pay the drivers a "fuel surcharge" to supplement their incomes.

In recent weeks large-scale protests have brought the economies and highways to a virtual standstill of much of Europe, from France in early September to Belgium, Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and elsewhere.

What is the cause?

"Speculators are thinking that it's going to be a cold winter," said Dr. Joseph Schaafsma, chair of the UVic department of economics. "They're starting to hoard stock and drive up prices. They're gambling that prices will rise in the winter and they will be able to sell off their stock at a higher price."

The price of crude oil has increased from $27 per barrel at the start of the year to over $37 for a brief period last week.

In an extraordinary move, the United States government announced on Sept. 22 that it would release 30 million barrels of crude from massive tanks buried under the states of Texas and Louisiana, the Globe and Mail reported.

The reserves are maintained to fuel the US military in case the oil supply is cut off during wartime.

The 30 million barrels - to be released at a rate of 1 million barrels per day until a possible extension a month from now - represents one-seventy-fifth of the total daily world output, and would meet the America's oil needs for 48 hours.

"What the US is really doing is trying to mess up the speculators," Dr. Schaafsma said. "That is really the only way you can do anything about prices."

What about reducing fuel taxes?

Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day proposed the idea during his first week in the House of Commons, only to have Prime Minister Jean Chretien remind him that he voted to increase gas taxes as an Albertan legislator.

"I'm not too sympathetic to lowering excise taxes on gas," Dr. Schaafsma said.

"The price of gas should rise over time, because we need to find alternatives to gasoline. We're not going to find an alternative if prices stay really cheap, because the incentive isn't there. But it's better to have it rising steadily over time than have this huge increase all at once."

Dr. Nancy Turner, a professor with UVic's School of Environmental Studies takes the argument a step further.

"What we need to do is create a situation where people can no longer afford to drive their cars anymore. At the same time, it is the responsibility of our government to create the appropriate alternative transportation infrastructure. You can't expect people to be without transportation."

"They have to go forward with some sort of light-rail transit," Dr. Turner said.

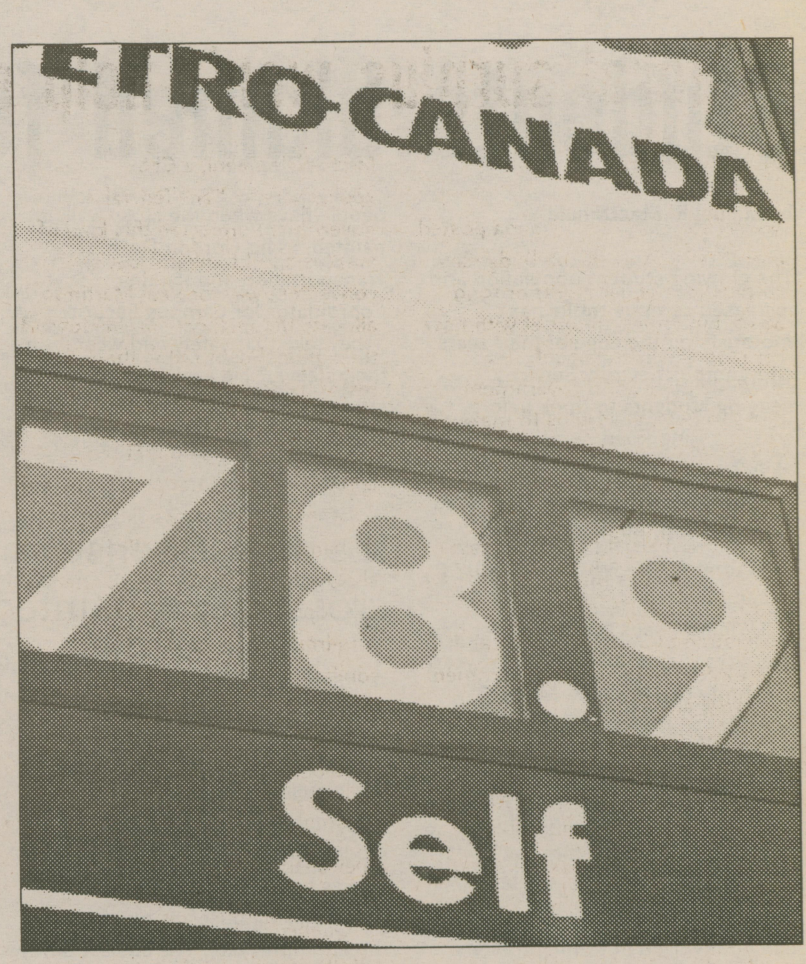


photo by Richard Warrington

**Too high? Prices topped 81 cents after this photo was taken**

The price of gas should rise over time, because we need to find alternatives to gasoline.

*Dr. Joseph Schaafsma, chair of the department of Economics*

**Open: Thursday, October 5**
**Closing: Friday, October 20**

# Nominations

**will be accepted at the GSS Infodesk, beginning October 5th, for the following Graduate Students' Society positions:**

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# Physicists converge on UVic to study mysterious 'Tau' particle

by Margaret Milne

Last week, over 70 scientists from across the world gathered in Victoria for Tau 2000, a four-day conference devoted to studying the tau lepton, a subatomic particle touted as one of the indivisible building blocks of nature.

Researchers paid $450 a head to share their research on the origin and fate of the tau, and UVic, the Tri-University Meson Facility (TRIUMF), the Institute of Particle Physicists, and the Canadian Association of Physicists kicked in additional funds.

"What we're trying to do is understand nature at a fundamental level," said Dr. Mike Roney, a physics professor at UVic and one of the organizers of the conference.

Formed when another particle known as the Z boson decays, the tau itself decays, producing a particle called the W boson. The W and Z bosons are the particles that transmit the weak force, the force responsible for radioactive decay.

The tau lepton breaks new ground in the area of antiparticles. According to standard theories, every particle should have an antiparticle that is completely identical except for its charge.

However a number of researchers are looking into the possibility that the tau might break this symmetry.

According to conference organizer and UVic physics prof Dr. Mike Roney, "if people see this broken, that's Nobel stuff."

Researchers at the conference also focused on the tau neutrino. Contrary to standard theories, recent experiments seem to indicate that the tau neutrino and other neutrinos may actually have mass. If researchers prove this to be true, many theories and assumptions will have to be rethought - something that most scientists look forward to with relish.

"People have the perception that scientists are conservative and not open minded to new theories and ideas," Dr. Roney said.

"I would say the opposite is the case. The unexpected things that don't agree with the current paradigm are the most exciting."

While practical or commercial applications of this research are not on the near horizon, Dr. Roney is quick to point out that when the electron was first researched no one had a practical use for it either. But study of the electron was a crucial step toward contemporary use of electricity.

How did this high-powered meeting end up at UVic?

The institution beat out five other universities to win the right to host the conference. Dr. Roney said the fact that UVic won is a nod from the international particle physics community that "the group at Victoria has been making tremendous contributions to the field." Now that UVic has hosted the conference, Dr. Roney adds, "people around the world see UVic as a research centre."

# Federal surplus won't help education or health funding, say critics

by Simon Rabinovitch

MONTREAL (CUP) – Canada posted a whopping $12.3-billion budgetary surplus for the fiscal year of 1999-2000, but critics are upset with how the money is being spent.

While the Liberal government plans to use the surplus to make the largest debt pay down ever in the country's history, there will be no boost whatsoever of provincial transfer payments that could have helped fund education or health care.

Critics from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and from within the Quebec government believe that the Liberals are being neglectful of social spending priorities. As well, they question whether Finance Minister Paul Martin was overly tight in his budget allotments last February, fully aware that revenues would be as high as they are.

"To somehow suggest that this is a big surprise is just ridiculous," said Michael Temelini, a CFS spokesperson. "The federal government projected this kind of surplus and I think it's just a convenient way for Paul Martin to allocate the unspent surplus towards the national debt rather than restoring social programs like health and education."

Temelini also said that the Liberals' move is not consistent with what the Canadian people are demanding. Opinion polls have shown that at least three-quarters of the population is more concerned with improved health care and education systems than lowered taxes or debt reduction, he said.

"We've been saying all along that the federal government needs to restore the cuts to the provinces in order to help the education system. They seem only to be listening to the powerful and the wealthy."

Quebec Finance Minister Bernard Landry echoed Temelini's sentiments, arguing that the federal government reaped in its huge surplus in large part by not fulfilling its responsibility to the provinces.

Critics from the Canadian Federation of Students and from within the Quebec government believe that the Liberals are being neglectful of social spending priorities

"In an intelligent federalism, there is a principle that the closest government to a problem takes care of it and has the means to do so," said Landry. "Here, the federal government has done the opposite. This restricts us in our management of the finances in Quebec."

In a statement released earlier this week, Martin disputed this account, explaining that Canada's economic performance over the fiscal year ending March 31 was stronger than anticipated, freeing up the extra money for debt payback.

Reducing the massive federal debt accumulated over three decades has been a cause strongly championed by Martin in the past few years. He said that he has made great strides in "cutting up the federal government's credit card."

By dedicating the $12-billion to debt repayment, the Liberals will save close to $1 billion in annual interest costs. Martin said that easing the government's interest burden will ultimately help the social causes that Quebec and the CFS feel are being forgotten.

"This means we will have greater resources to build a better future. It means that we will able to finance key priorities like the agreement reached last week by first ministers to secure and sustain medicare," he said, referring to a deal struck Sept. 12 between Prime Minister Jean Chretien and the premiers that will bring in a $21.1-billion increase in transfer payments over the next five years.

The cash injections will not begin until 2001-2002 though, and forecasters are predicting another $12-billion surplus for the current fiscal year, money that has not been earmarked for any purpose yet.

# UBC gives royal welcome to Axworthy

by Maya Papineau

VANCOUVER (CUP) – The University of British Columbia's enthusiasm for the newest employee of its Liu Centre for Global Studies may have bubbled over Thursday at the official opening of the think-tank's new building.

Charles Slonecker, UBC's acting vice-president of external affairs, introduced Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs under a rather ambitious title.

"Please welcome the honourable Lord Axworthy," Slonecker told the packed room.

I am looking forward to working with students in order to generate and communicate new ideas

*Lloyd Axworthy*

"Thank you for the promotion," a laughing Lloyd Axworthy answered as he took the podium. "Eat your heart out Conrad Black."

Axworthy, who recently announced that he was retiring from politics to join the think-tank, went on to speak about his excitement for the prospect of returning to a university.

"I welcome this chance to return back to academia," he said. "My task is to see if I can put some theory back into my practice."

Axworthy had taught at the University of Winnipeg for two years before he embarked on a 27-year political career, which will end when the Prime Minister shuffles his cabinet. He will be a researcher at the centre no later than Jan. 1 and will also teach in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

"I am looking forward to working with students in order to generate and communicate new ideas... to arrive at global solutions to global issues. We need people who think out of the box, and young people think out of the box," he said.

Olav Slaymaker, director of the centre, said he expects Axworthy will research issues of human security such as landmines and small arms control. Slaymaker said he is very excited about what Axworthy will bring to the interdiscplinary global think-tank.

"He feels so pressured as a member of parliament. You can't choose the issues you get involved with. You have to deal with everything they put on your plate," he said.

Axworthy will be part of a high-profile research team, which includes former deputy minister of Foreign Affairs Gordon Smith and Ivan Head, a foreign policy advisor to former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

The Liu Centre – created in 1997 by Head, a former professor of Law at UBC – is a research centre which brings together faculty from such diverse backgrounds as climate change, political science, forestry and economics, to address such issues as food security, population growth and ecology.

# Researcher working on program to prevent depression among first-year university students

by Jonathan Dieli Colburn

HALIFAX (CUP) – A researcher in the town of Truro, Nova Scotia, is trying to develop a program that will identify and prevent depression among first-year university students.

Stephen Gleich began researching frosh depression after attending a workshop given on the subject by Dr. Edward Craighead at the University of Colorado.

"I've learned that the lifetime prevalence of depression – and this is a clinical, serious level of depression – in adults is around 24 per cent or 25 per cent," he said. "I really like the idea of being able to catch some of this early-on in life and prevent significant suffering by creating this type of a prevention program."

Gleich, a psychologist who works with adults at Nova Scotia's Colchester Regional Hospital, received a $10,000 development grant from the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation this July, which will enable him to design a working model of a depression prevention program for an eventual pilot study.

"I'm interested in projects that use different screening programs to identify candidates," said Gleich.

A similar depression study is in place at the University of Pennsylvania, which includes more students from higher income families.

Gleich said he may include the local community college in Truro in his pilot program, giving him a chance to compare two similar programs in different economic atmospheres.

As a part of similar study at the University of Colorado, the university sent out question sheets with school applications that asked about any past incidents of depression. One group of students at risk for depression were put in a preventative program, while another group wasn't, said Gleich.

The Colorado students met in groups of about a dozen on a regular basis. Of the 69 students in the study, 34 per cent of those who did not participate in the program had a serious episode of depression, while only 7 per cent of those who did participate had serious episodes.

Gleich is not yet sure what form his pilot study will take. He will be spending part of the next year analysing the effectiveness of current programs and reading area literature on depression to plan for his pilot.

There are a number of stress factors involved in the move to university life, according to Gleich, who says that such a transition can be a point of vulnerability for a student with a high risk of depression. He says financial difficulties, family separation, academic and social pressures can contribute to serious episodes.

"The idea of offering a program to help people through that first year and through those adjustments I think is really well targeted," said Gleich.

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# EDITORIAL:

## Talking on 'a woman's place'

[*The Martlet* decided to write a collaborative editorial this week based on a United Nations Population Fund report published last week. The report can be found at www.unfpa.org]

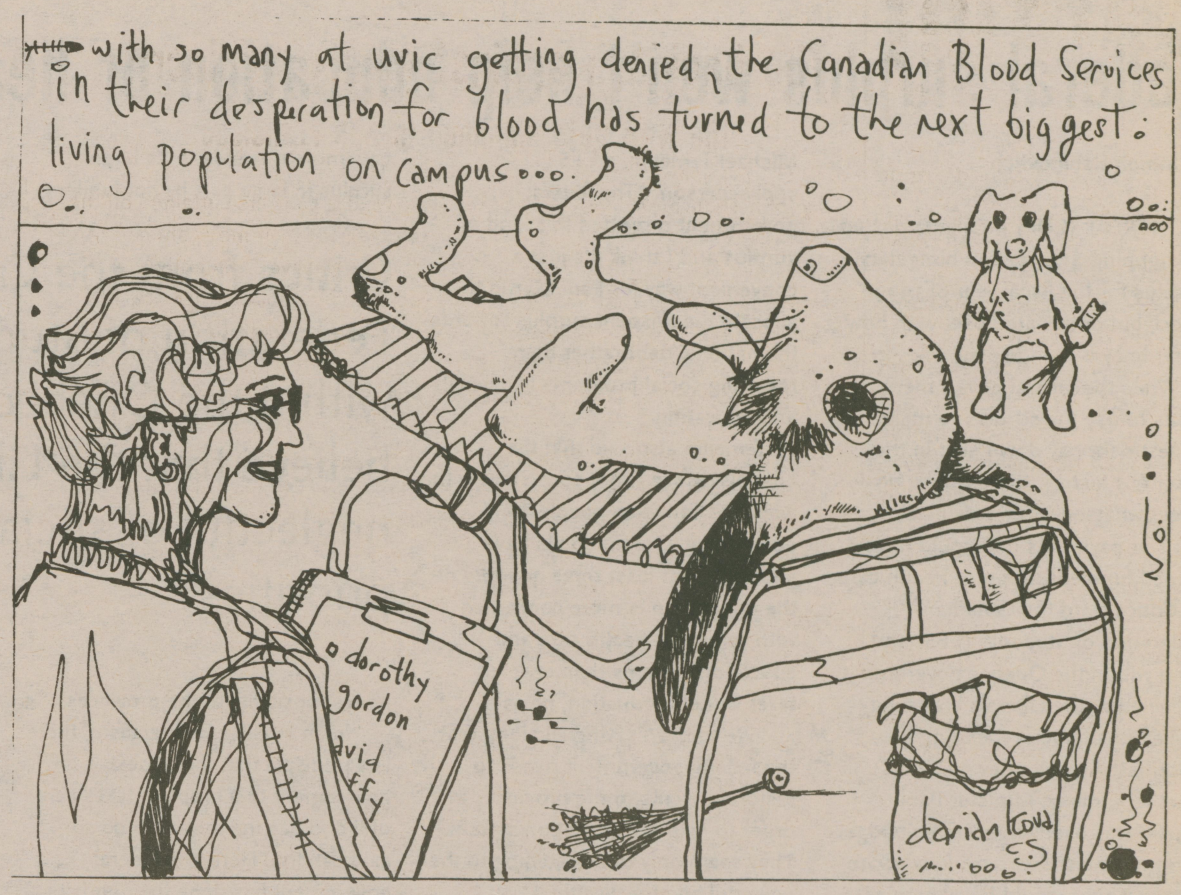
**Point:** The United Nations announced the results of a report last week stating that violence and discrimination against women "remain firmly rooted in cultures around the world." Over the next year there will be millions of beatings, rapes and unsafe abortions. And oh, yeah, women still shoulder the bulk of the world's labour and yet their pay is still unequal or non-existent.
Cut to society gasping in shock.
"What?" we might say. "I thought we took care of that discrimination thing. You know, back in the '60s. This can't be right." But wait, this was a United Nations report. This probably doesn't have anything to do with us. Sure discrimination is still a problem in some of the more 'backward' countries, but we've got it all sewn up. Right?
Think again pal. Discrimination against women is just as big a problem in our own back yard as it is around the world. There's the fact that women still make roughly 74 cents for every dollar men make for the same job; the heads of all the major Canadian corporations are damn near exclusively male. And we perceive ourselves as a progressive nation.
It's doubtful that the recent United Nations report outlining the subjugated position of women worldwide will really help those who face the tyranny of oppression daily.

**Counterpoint:** Here we are again. Reports. Government. We use those names to deny the responsibilty that comes with our privilege. Canada committed $200-million a year to reproductive health programs in 1994 but has paid out less than $50-million annually. Canada's population assistance spending is in the bottom third of the top 20 industrialized nations. Meanwhile, our health care system is chaos, with *doctors fleeing and patients waiting.*
Wait. Let me look at my own budget. I spend two dollars a day on coffee grown where rainforest grew, where rotated crops of leafy greens were burned to start feeding the addictions of the developed world. I spend 20 bucks a week on fuel adding to a busted ozone layer, and melting a sea of Arctic ice. I eat out instead of growing my own food. I pay rent to a landlord I never see.
When I get my spending prioritized; when I find the time to tutor a person who can't read; when I lobby for safe abortions; when I get active in finding solutions to health care in this country: then perhaps I can speak about a world vision for humanity.

**Point:** Take for instance, the women under Taliban rule in Afghanistan. These women (who used to enjoy some form of freedom under government rule before the Taliban coup) are now no more than beggars in the streets. As one Taliban government official said, "Women are like dogs – if they are obedient they'll be tolerated." Can this UN report really change the totalitarian rule of a country steeped in male-dominated, religious rhetoric like Afghanistan?

**Counterpoint:** Considering that the world is so steeped in patriarchy, maybe a UN report such as this is movement in the right direction. Of course there is still discrimination against women – I don't think anyone with a brain is going to dispute that – but when an organization like the UN points out this sexual disparity, it brings just that little bit more attention to a situation that obviously needs a remedy.
While discrimination against women here at home is still all too glaring, women have substantially more rights, power and recognition than in many other countries around the globe. With this in mind, the UN's report is a small but significent push toward a united humanity in these countries where women are given little-to-no recognition or respect. In such a big fight for equality, I think that everything must count – even a little. Patriarchy is a deeply rooted ideology that needs to be fought in every way possible, and in front of as many people as possible – that is, of course, if equality is ever to have a fighting chance.

Editorial topics are decided by at staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at noon in the SUB B011. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.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STUDENT VOICE:

## Take Back the Night from the police

**by Leanne Drumheller**

Last Friday I attended the annual Take Back The Night celebration in Victoria. I love the concept of this march: the solidarity between women, taking space in and on the streets of Victoria, the sound of women's voices and the reminder to the general public that the streets are still not safe for many women. We must continue to fight for safety and freedom. I hear the songs and chants of the cheerleaders: *Stomp, smash the State, let's liberate. Acknowledge me or go to hell, another woman to rebel.* I hear the words of inspiration and resistance from various women sharing their stories and truths. I am thankful to those women who organized this march, because I understand the amount of work that goes into planning an event of this size.

One major problem was the all too familiar police escort, bike cops and foot police. Why is it that every year the police are brought along to 'lead' this march? Why are they here at all except to keep an eye on the placard-carrying ignorant men who, once again, feel they're not being heard.

Police presence was an issue of contention for many women last year and I mistakenly thought that the police would not be called in to attend this year's march because of that opposition. When I spoke with the police I was told that they were there for my 'protection.' Protection from whom? Not only do I feel that the police do not protect me, I often feel that I need protection from the police. How many times have I or my friends been intimidated, harassed, threatened with arrest, arrested for our resistance or pepper sprayed by Victoria police? More than you may care to know. Part of my taking back the night is taking it back from the police. So I decided that this time things would be different for me, that I would no longer walk behind a police car and inhale their exhaust. This time I would walk in front of the police car with as many other women as were willing.

As I walked to join two of my friends who had already gotten in front of the police car, I was grabbed, hard enough to bruise, by a police officer who told me to "get back to your place," meaning: get back in line behind us. After pulling away from her I moved to join my friends who were being told that if they did not comply with the police they would be fined and potentially arrested. (Now the arrest of two women at a Take Back the Night rally would have been quite the thing!) They kept walking and I joined them and hand-in-hand we walked down the street in front of the police car. It was the most liberating moment I have felt for a long time.

As I walked along I spoke with these friends about my struggle in joining them in front of the police car. I struggled with the issue of solidarity: was I breaking solidarity with the rest of the group in order to join women who I felt most aligned with? If I had stayed with the large group I would have abandoned my own needs and desire to resist the police escort. All of these thoughts moved through my head as I skated along the fine line of group dynamics and individuality.

I spoke to one of the marshals about my decision to move in front of the police line. She suggested that I should have come to the planning meetings to air my concerns and she asked me not to move in front of the police car. She had a point, if you don't come to the meetings then you miss out on directing the event, but I think that this perspective is wrong.

The essential key to any social or political movement is in maintaining a goal of liberation through self-expression. I wonder how many missed opportunities and advances could have been made by encouraging individual freedom and working through our own need to control. We are following the patriarchal way of working when we structure each other's resistance. The police escort produces a structure that I am far from comfortable with. The idea of keeping ourselves in one lane even borders on too much structure.

It would be beautiful to see 300 women dancing wildly through all four lanes of traffic in celebration of each other and ourselves. But first we have to start with opening the doors to our own cages.

# LETTERS:

**Fundraising plans clarified**
The headline for *the Martlet*'s front page story of Sept. 14 suggests that UVic is "poised to launch a $250-million fundraising campaign." This is not correct. As is pointed out later in the article, a list of possible fundraising priorities has been identified through a 14-month consultation process within the university community. That list totals $250-$275 million. Not all of these priorities will receive external support and, in the months ahead, the university must identify a realistic and achievable fundraising target for its next major fundraising campaign. That campaign will be publicly launched in approximately three years. The target will certainly be well short of the amount required to fund the entire list.

*James F. Griffith, Vice-President Development & External Relations*

**No way should we pay**
Education is a basic human right, so what's this bullshit about "paying back student loans?" If enough people stood and said no, then we could replace loans with grants. Cuba does it. Students have just one obligation, and that's to keep their grades up. Let them slip, and you're out. Then it's off to trade school or less skillful employment.

*David Nash*

**Additional conditions for protester**
Your article on UVic's recent decision regarding local protester Lorenzo Bouchard (*the Martlet*, Sept. 14) was missing some crucial information. While the article does point out that Mr. Bouchard continues to be permitted on campus as long as he doesn't bring along the iron rod he has been carrying (given his conduct, it is seen as a potential weapon), it leaves out the other aspects of the decision – that he not impede people

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MONOLOGUE:

# The backlash against media mediocrity:

## the NAB gets slammed in San Francisco

**by John Thompson**

In an age of quality programming where *Jerry Springer*, the *WWF*, *Survivor*, and *When Animals Attack* pass for content, it's no surprise that corporate media in America is under attack.

But shoddy content alone wasn't what led hundreds of media activists to take to the streets of San Francisco last week during the annual convention of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). A powerful US lobby group for America's radio and television stations, the NAB is under fire for using its clout to push bills like the 1996 Telecommunications Act through, which lifted restrictions upon corporate ownership in the media.

Opponents also condemn the NAB for railing against issues such as campaign finance reform, and low-power community radio.

The protests kicked off in earnest last Friday morning with activists sporting micro-radio transmitters and placards and rallied near the NAB convention throughout the day. Four protesters blockaded the entrance to the convention centre by sitting down with their backs to one another and locking their necks together with kryptonite locks.

NAB organizers curtained off the protest, but their incessant chants of "Who's airwaves? Our airwaves!" persisted for hours, while activists outside hopped around a giant Monopoly board. Police eventually cut the locks with a chain saw and arrested five people.

If our neighbours south of the border are getting cranky about their public airwaves being hijacked for corporate interests, how does this affect us Canadian folk?

For starters, our local media uses a great deal of US content, so the actions of the NAB inevitably affect us. Blake Speers of the UVic Fair Speech Coalition (FSC) points out that BCTV, for example, gets all of its world news from NBC. "A close look at our local and national newspapers will show that much of the reports come from exactly the same news wires as most American news," he says.

Media monopolies are no stranger to Canada. Indy journalist James MacKinnon, senior editor at *Adbusters* magazine, concedes that while "the US has enormous media conglomerates," it still has more diversity than Canada.

We have one of the highest rates of media consolidation in the world, and this leaves the Canadian public vulnerable to media distortions serving private interests.

As Noam Chomsky has observed, the mass media doesn't sell content – it sells audiences. So if we're the product, who's the purchaser?

"Corporations sell audiences to corporations. In the case of elite media, it's big businesses" is Chomsky's reply. And because it's natural to expect a product to reflect the interests of buyers and sellers, it's no surprise that dissenting points of view are few and far between. In the words of Robert Hackett, co-director of NewsWatch Canada: "The press doesn't tell us what to think, but it is stunningly successful at telling us what to think about."

Perhaps this will be the mass media's own undoing. Last year, a *National Post* editorial responded to criticism of the paper's content with the frosty reply: "If you want to determine editorial policy, start a newspaper." And people have. Amidst the growing resistance toward the mainstream media, people are establishing independent and affordable alternatives.

Activists have always been frustrated with a sensationalist mass media that refuses to convey radical thought. As a remedy, large demonstrations are now establishing media for themselves: IndyMedia web portals where independent journalists and activists can upload articles, photographs and video footage giving the straight goods, without meddlesome corporate obstruction.

The NAB demos in San Francisco were no exception; the San Francisco IndyMedia website was frequently updated while the protests unfolded.

And, of course, as students, we're damn lucky to have several independent media sources right here on campus. This includes the community radio station CFUV, as well as the splendid newspaper that you're slurping through this very instant. (Of course, illustrious students such as M.Collins view *the Martlet* as the nexus point where Communism and Fascism meet, but then it's nice to see some creative writing coming out of the Commerce department.)

While the mainstream media is confined to social norms, political ideologies and profit margins, indy media seeks to bust through these preconceptions, boundaries and barriers.

So amigos, this is a call to arms. Let us don our oversized sunglasses and outlandish attire. Let us put our pens and notepads to use, along with our My First Sony recorders, digital cameras and Etch-a-Sketches, in order to breath life into the desolate media wasteland that we inhabit. Independant media's on the rise, and in an all-out offensive against media distortions, blind-spots, and worst of all, bloody awful television programming.

LETTERS:

*continued*

entering or leaving buildings or moving around campus, and that he refrain from intimidating, harassing or demeaning university community members or campus visitors while he is here.

The university's decision, arrived at after an extensive, multi-level, nine-month process of review, balances the interests of free speech with UVic's obligation to provide a safe, harassment-free environment in which to study and work. It also gives Mr. Bouchard, a regular campus visitor for the past two years, reasonable avenues to express himself without sacrificing the rights of students and staff.

*Bruce Kilpatrick, Director*
*UVic Communications Services*

**Diary Of A Redskin**

*Wednesday, September 20th, 2000: Trojan Horse*

8:00 am - opened up the Native Students' Union office. Found a big cardboard poster tube leaning against the door. Thought it might be some posters for us to post and distribute, since we get things like that on occasion. Brought the tube inside the office and discovered, much to my surprise, that it was empty. Pondered on possible reasons why someone would leave an empty tube for us. I looked at the mailing label and it wasn't addressed to us, the NSU. The tube had Purolator stickers on it, it was addressed to "Imaginus Print Sale." Upon further inspection, I discovered the true intent behind this kind and thoughtful offering: someone had elegantly scrawled the words "gay people" on the outside of the tube. Apparently, this referred to us, the Native Student's Union.

This was a reminder of the fact that I, as any First Nations person, must live with the daily consequences of being born a redskin (a life sentence, you might say). As if the "Sandwich Board Guy" fiasco weren't enough (Lorenzo Bouchard, aka Senõr Bungholio), we must also deal with discrimination in our own office.

Not only did the ignoramus who strategically placed this tube at our door attack First Nations people such as myself, but they openly attacked gay people too. "Two for the price of one! Hurry, hurry, hurry! Come on down! Step right up here and take a free shot at any ethnic group or minority of your choice! The more the merrier!"

This is a university. I thought this was a place for "educated" people. An educated person should have better things to do than sneak around the SUB after hours and anonymously attack people based solely on their race or sexual orientation. It is embarrassing to think that in the 21st Century, such acts of cowardice are still commonplace.

*Albert Morrison-Hayward*
*BFA, PDPP in Education*

*Our goal is to increase self-esteem and decrease isolation. Seeing a person as a whole functioning person, as opposed to just a drug addict or a prostitute is an important part of the philosophy of harm reduction.*
*Kate Thwaites*

# Filling the gap:
## Street Outreach Services

**by Patsy Raynolds**

Street Outreach Services (SOS) is not on a street; it's in an alley, tucked away from the tourist strip of downtown Victoria. SOS opens its doors at 3:30 p.m., offering clean needles, donated food, and support services. Over 1,500 clients pass through its doors each year.

Outside a man waits in the rain for the doors to open, his corduroy jacket pulled close. "Is there soup today?" he asks. "Are there buns too?" Behind the counter Kate Thwaites, a street outreach worker, digs in a plastic bag grabbing one of the day old hot dog buns donated by a local restaurant. The man smiles and says thank you. On the front counter he sees a large Plexiglas box filled with dirty orange and white hypodermic needles. "Oh man, that's gross," he says. "If you don't like it," Thwaites replies, "you don't have to look at it."

A client beside him drops off two needles in the box, and receives two new ones in return. He grabs a small bottle of spring water and walks out. The exchange is recorded on the computer's database using his personal identification code. Claire Dineen, coordinator of the centre, has the code memorized.

In full view, a bulletin board warns of the latest string of heroin overdoses. The pamphlet rack alongside it includes titles like "Tricks of the Trade: Health and Safety Tips for Street Workers," "Safer Needle Use: How to Shoot," and the popular "Bad Date Sheet" providing incriminating descriptions of abusive sex trade clients.

Taped to the counter is a tattered piece of paper asking for client input. The few scribbled responses read "friendly faces," "longer hours" and "empathy." For Thwaites and Dineen who staff the reception counter, these needs are essential components of SOS and why their work is so critical for so many. Located on Commercial Alley downtown, SOS is administered by AIDS Vancouver Island and funded through the Ministry of Health. Offering services that centre around a needle exchange for intravenous (IV) drug users, SOS has grown to be one of Canada's largest needle exchange programs.

Despite social stigma, SOS has expanded its services over the years, fulfilling its mandate to work with sex trade workers and IV drug users to lower the rate of HIV/AIDS. One of Street Outreach Services' greatest challenges is funding. With almost 1,500 registered clients and a needle return rate of 105 per cent, SOS struggles with a budget frozen since 1998. However, they feel fortunate that a new Hepatitis C outreach worker, funded by Health Canada, will be hired this year.

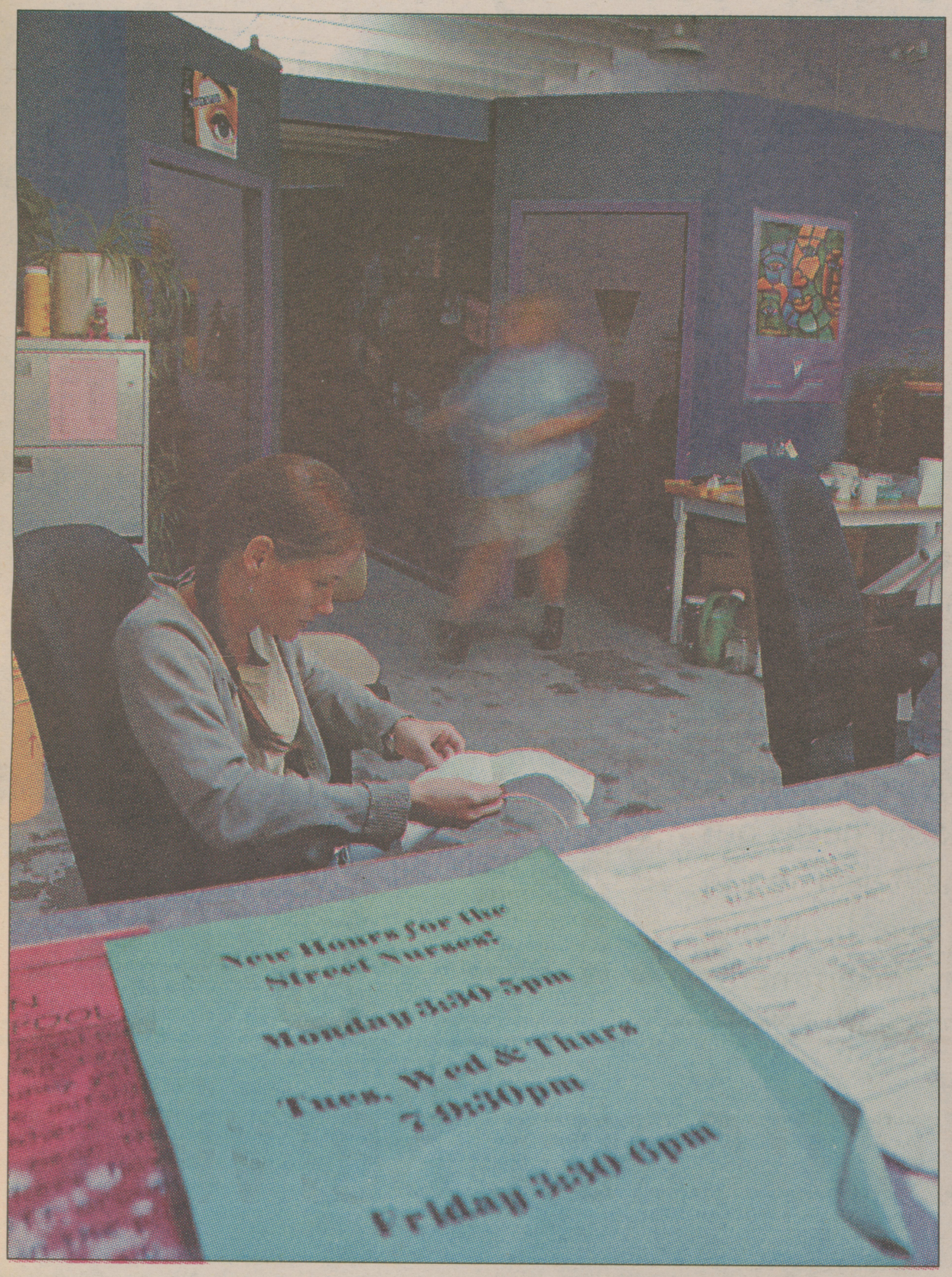
"It is estimated that 80 per cent of IV drug users have Hepatitis C," said Dineen. Carried in the blood stream, Hepatitis C passes from one user to the next when they share needles. "It is going to be very expensive when these people start getting sick."

Thwaites, a social work graduate who has worked at SOS for the past four years, believes in the philosophy of harm reduction. "Our goal is to increase self-esteem and decrease isolation. Seeing a person as a whole functioning person, as opposed to just a drug addict or a prostitute," is part of SOS's mandate.

Harm reduction emerged during the 1980s with the advent of HIV and AIDS. Concerned with the person as a whole, harm reduction does not necessarily advocate abstinence as the ultimate goal. For those at SOS, harm reduction is the idea of health promotion by decreasing risks associated with IV drug use. To do this, SOS provides user-friendly services and support including instructing proper needle use, vein care, promoting safe sex and providing HIV/AIDS education.

"The problem of drug addiction is very complex," says Dineen who has been working at SOS for six years. "Our success is not necessarily about people stopping using drugs. Success could be people seeing that things can be different, or understanding how to use drugs more safely."

Jim Bishop, an addictions counselor who works for Pacific Centre Family Services believes in a client-based approach. Each client is different, and has their own ideas of what will work best for them. "A little bit of something is better than nothing," says Bishop. If a client begins withdrawing from cocaine, but continues to use alcohol, Bishop sees this as a step forward. While alcohol use may lead to a relapse, after several relapses, a client may or may not decide that they need to abstain from alcohol as well. But Bishop believes it is up to the client to make that decision. "Who am I to say no, that won't work, when I don't know that it won't."



left: **Inside Street Outreach Services (SOS), Canada's largest and oldest publicly-funded needle exchange program.**

below: **These biohazard containers are the size of average household garbage cans and contain up to 2500 needles. SOS has over 1500 clients every year and collects more needles than they give out.**

photo by Richard Warrington

Pacific Centre does requires that an out-patient be sober while attending a counseling session. Sobriety during a session is not only about effectiveness and safety, it is also about respect for the counselor. In-patient or residency programs such as those offered by Victoria Life Enrichment Society often require a minimum period of sobriety before attending. Victoria Life lacks the medical staff to deal with clients' potential withdrawal symptoms. In addition, they believe clients experiencing withdrawal symptoms such as shaking or confusion, will not fully benefit from the program.

According to Bishop, some counselors would balk at his client-based approach, but there appears to be a growing number who would agree with him. Of the 10 agencies the Alcohol and Drug Referral Service recommended *the Martlet* speak with, at least six have implemented client-specific, non-threatening approaches to drug and alcohol treatment.

Canada currently sits in the middle of the spectrum of international harm reduction policies. "If we didn't live so close to the US we might provide a model of care closer to that of the Dutch," says Thwaites. Holland's open-door policy encourages the use of public safe-injection sites, in stark contrast with the United States' war on drugs. Health Canada's stance currently focuses on disease control.

Street Outreach Services' mandate to connect with those working in the sex trade industry is an important part of the federal agenda. Providing education, condoms and support for prostitutes is a critical part of lowering these people's risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Activities have expanded over the years "to fill the gaps we see in public services," says Thwaites. With the needle exchange as the "hook," SOS provides other programs that extend the level of care beyond issues of HIV/AIDS. They offer access to support groups, free acupuncture, naturopathy, nursing, and a Tai Chi class. They also publish a zine called "Ho's and Hypes."

The nursing care, funded by the Capital Health Region (CHR), is central to the effectiveness of implementing a harm reduction strategy at SOS. Five days a week, on a part-time basis, nurses tend to SOS clients caring for everything from abscesses to sexually transmitted diseases to counseling. Two nurses in Victoria, also hired by CHR, work strictly as street outreach nurses.

"I believe in needle availability [regardless], not [one for one] needle exchange," said one of the nurses, who asked to remain anonymous. "I do exchanges with dealers who have health concerns [for their clients]. It takes time to make these relationships, to build trust." The dealers then become secondary distributors of the clean needles. Her house calls include showing people how to shoot safely, teaching vein care, treating STDs, dealing with mental health issues, and advocating for people's health and social well being.

As a street outreach nurse, she experiences many benefits. "There are so many rewards in my work. Everyday little rewards. Today a young girl I work with said she was proud of herself. She had filled out the paper work to get an apartment. A lot of people want to make us proud, but no, we want them to be proud of themselves, [even if it is] being clean for one day out of an entire year."

SOS began 12 years ago as a government make-work project. As the first publicly funded needle exchange in Canada two people were hired to walk the streets with backpacks distributing and collecting IV needles. After four years of working from the streets, the project moved to its first building in 1992.

"Location is important," says Dineen. "It's about being where the clients are." Situated in the downtown core is critical to SOS's success. Unfortunately more programs are also needed in outlying areas. "Our short-term goal is to have a mobile service where we can reach areas like Esquimalt, Saanich, Sooke and Port Renfrew. There is this expectation that [at present] we can serve all locations. This is preposterous."

However, location can be a contentious issue with the public. "The community reception is good in theory," says Dineen. A number of local businesses, shops and bakeries donate food and clothing. However, as Thwaites says, "there is a push by the mayor to eliminate visible poverty and we're a part of that."

*In next week's* Martlet, *Jessica Weirmier takes a look at the real story behind the gentrification of the downtown core.*

# Sketching a future for comedy on tv

## If comedy is the gut of cultural subversion on prime time, who is growling?

by Bjorn Thomson

John Belushi doing Joe Cocker on *Saturday Night Live.*

photos provided

Scott Thomson as a waiter on *The Kids in the Hall.*

When *Saturday Night Live* was young and revolutionary, Tom Davis and Al Franken addressed the studio audience: "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you. Tonight we'd like to stick our necks out a little on national television to call for a violent overthrow of the United States government."

Remember when Joe Cocker was on the show, staggering, gesticulating and growling in his fitfully coherent baritone, while John Belushi stood behind him, doing a cruelly accurate parody?

Remember Bass-O-Matic? Invisible Pedestrian?

Considering how daring and funny *SNL* used to be, it's sobering to think that, growing up with the mid '80s cast, I believed Dana Carvey was a dazzling comedian.

The show began in the '70s as an often-savage satire; by the early '80s it had degenerated into toothless parody. Not surprising when you consider that its creators had been producing an hour-and-a-half live show every week for five years.

John, Danny, Lorne and Gilda could only sustain their usual, brilliant intensity through so many coke binges and screaming matches before they succumbed to burnout, greed, and to "creative differences."

*SNL in the '80s and early '90s* wasn't bad: it was polished and well performed, but you sensed that it was content to follow popular opinion rather than drive it, particularly during its spineless and often racist Gulf War sketches. The infamous 'Penis Sketch' of the late '80s was an ironic example of what was missing in the new incarnation; that such a mild send-up incited controversy said more about the timidity of television produced in the '80s than it did about the courage of *SNL*.

Instead of being challenging or consistently funny, *SNL* became a factory of the catch phrase. Even when the skits were dull, we knew the sound bites "cawfee tawk," "excellent," "well... isn't that special?" and, for some not entirely explicable reason, we laughed at them, as if the grain of comedy missing in the sketch was somehow contained in these few syllables, and as if by repeating them, we could invoke the elusive essence of the joke.

> Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you. Tonight we'd like to stick our necks out a little on national television to call for a violent overthrow of the United States government
>
> *early* Saturday Night Live

### Throwing a stick of dynamite at Wonderbread tv

Elsewhere behind the screen, the original, subversive trick was being perfected. Those who lived on the margins of the majority culture – members of *Codco, In Living Color, The Kids in the Hall* – began writing tv comedy.

*In Living Color* did what its name suggests, bringing African American and Latino comedians, musicians, and dancers into a world of Wonderbread comedy. The show threw a stick of dynamite at mainstream American taboos, especially with the wildly improvisational comic Jim Carrey. It's unlikely that '80s-era *SNL* would have taken a chance on such a raw, volatile performer. Canada's *Codco* did for Newfoundlanders what *In Living Color* did for African Americans: it gave a voice to a ghettoized culture.

*Monty Python* likewise spoke to an emergent generation, in a vocabulary familiar to the postmodernist. While the BBC had been a relatively daring institution in the late '60s, it was still shackled to comedy paradigms the *Pythons* had outgrown. Every member of the troupe (except Terry Gilliam) had been involved in British television comedy for years, but none had found an aperture that allowed them to break out of the logical and formal bounds that defined the comedy sketch.

*Python* provided that aperture. It was nothing like the insipid parody offered on British television at the time. Rather, it was the marker of a new age of comedy. The structure of the premise-setup-punchline format was being interrogated; traditional signposts that demarcated sketch from sketch, and ending from beginning, were ignored, or obliterated.

*Monty Python* indulged in splendid chaos, at least until it too became a comic institution.

### A strange new world

Perhaps the mainstream sketch-comedy program that most completely disallows the premises of the 'real' world is *The Kids in the Hall.*

Unlike *SNL*, *The Kids in the Hall* isn't a political bazooka pointed at the prime time audience; it refers only obliquely to social issues and often ignores the rest of the world. It does the venerable Bad Date sketch, and indeed, its date narrative obeys parameters where Jack Benny would've been comfortable. But when it denies hard-line rationality, it reaches giddy heights of senselessness – not only do its bad dates go awry, its underpinnings morph from specific into surreal.

*Kids* sketches operate according to an enchanting dream logic: waiting in an ATM line becomes a sketch about the appearance of a cheerful flying pig, a pig that is in turn whisked away by a patently false-looking bird of prey.

Sketches aren't linked by a framing device, but by a world view. Like its predecessors, it provided an outlet for a marginal culture. It was for those weaned on *Python* and *SNL* – those who couldn't respond to the lumbering punchlines of *Mad About You* – who viewed sitcoms and political debates, cop shows and infomercials, with the same glassy, dreamy detachment.

At its best, *The Kids in the Hall* exists on a fundamental level of absurdity that is both funny and galvanizing. It follows a tradition whose actors find inspiration in violent juxtaposition and in dream state. The origins of this tradition can be traced from Carroll to Dalí, from Beckett and Bunuel to Lenny Bruce and David Lynch, and onward, in increasingly odd permutations, permutations that include both *Monty Python* and *SNL*.

*The Kids in the Hall* is obviously influenced by the latter programs: it is, like them, a confluence of mainstream and avant-garde, a keyhole through which we glimpsed a strange, new tv world.

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# Clay George bares his blues at UVic

by Jessica Chan

"At the bar most every night
I've met a lot of people,
Guess I've got a lot of friends
They go back to their own lives
When the music's an end.
Find myself preaching
'to an empty rented room
'bout an old upright piano
and a sentimental tune."

Clay George is singing and people listen as they stuff their faces. Four plates of nachos are being passed around, extra cheese and olives on top. The nachos will feed the group of twenty gathered for tonight's party. The only attention given to the performer is by a *Martlet* photographer and myself. We have to listen; we both have work to complete. Clay George is used to this.

"Tonight is what we call a 'wallpaper' gig. We play, the audience talks and eats...listens when they can. The music's just part of the scene." Clay passes me this information in a low voice. His buddy, Daniel Weisenburger is playing a set onstage. Clay wishes to hear the music. This wish, however, is drowned out by a shriek from a far corner. A girl has slipped off her shoes to show her friends her painted toes. They are iridescent green. Clay shrugs.

"Dan's got a lot of talent. A lot of people have a lot of talent. There's a lot of people here in Victoria with things to say with their music, but they have no one to say them to. There's not enough venues in Victoria for musicians. It's tough to be a full-time performing musician and put bread on the table in this town."

Clay George knows this situation well. At 28, he's been a musician for fifteen years. The Ontario-born songwriter has come a long way since he formed his first band at 13 years old. Often referred to as a blues musician, Clay plays a genre of music he does not classify.

"I think the blues bit came when I started to play finger-style guitar. The masters of this style are all folk and blues people, and I started learning this style to accompany myself. I didn't start the guitar because I planned to, I started because it was there. And the blues rep just kind of stuck I guess."

To a first time listener, his music sounds like a sentimental cross between folk and blues. This may have much to do with his early occupation as a busker on Government Street, singing folk and blues tunes to earn his keep. It was during this period that Clay turned his hand to song writing. However, this musical development soon called for another audience.

The music that runs from Clay's fingers tonight is the accumulation of five years work. Gathering his inspiration from poets and song masters Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan and Tom Wright, Clay turned to writing his own lyrics. What was initially termed as a folk-blues combination has evolved into his eclectic mix of lyrical sentiment and swift finger-style guitar accompaniment. The result is a gentler strain of Leonard Cohen meets Bob Dylan. This is a meld that is gradually bringing Cohen and Dylan enthusiasts to hear Clay George. What Clay George provides is musical revival to old familiarity. His style is an elementary fusion of two song masters. However, he needs to be heard.

> I think the blues bit came when I started to play finger-style guitar... I didn't start the guitar because I planned to, I started because it was there. And the blues rep just kind of stuck I guess.
>
> *Clay George*

"The kind of music I started on is more mellow than the usual upbeat club sounds. What I'm trying to do is to set up somewhere for people to come to play their music to people who come to listen, not yell, drink and get plastered. They have something like that for folk music down by Hillside at the Norway House. It's so silent there that it's like playing in a church. Everyone goes there because they want to appreciate good music. They keep so quiet that you could hear a pin drop. We need something similar for other kinds of music."

The setup Clay desires is a venue to showcase the experimental music of local artists. He hosts an open stage at Thursdays Pub on Sunday nights. The evening show generally consists of his opening set, followed by the performances spanning rock, pop, folk, jazz and the blues. The enclosed space provides musicians with a (hopefully) attentive audience. This is a means of ensuring the appreciation of an artist's work. Clay hopes this will trigger support for local talent.

"You can't really blame the bartenders, because they have to hire music that brings the drinkers in. They're in business to sell beer, for most bar owners, it's not about music it's about sales. Chris Logan, who books shows for Thursdays is probably one of the few who is open to having a variety of events – more outrageous music, something non-mainstream. There's always a market for mainstream music, it's the other talents we have to bring out, or else they will never be heard. People think they can listen to music while they are talking or eating, maybe they do. But sometimes you're up there and the room is louder than you."

The crowd in the room is thinning out-the nachos are gone. People are leaving, talking and laughing. As they leave, a man tries to shake Clay's hand. He misses. He has been drinking. Nevertheless, he thanks Clay: "Good job, man, really good stuff."

# An intro to the zine scene

by Adam Jones

The other day at a workshop called Self-Publishing with No Money, I was asked the question, "Who's publishing a zine right now?"

Only one person raised their hand. I thought, what a good question. Who is doing their own thing, farming their own culture, rather than going to the grocery store of tv, radio, or newspaper? Who is doing this in Victoria? I had to find out.

A zine (pronounce it zeen, or you may get laughed at) is basically a self-published something that can (but doesn't have to) include reporting, cartoons, poetry, prose, reviews, etc. Most two-dimensional forms of expression are potential content material for zines. (or the internet e-zines, which are quite popular now) To check out the local zine scene I headed downtown. If you are looking for zines, the place to go is a two-block stretch on Johnson Street, just off Douglas. The places to go are the few comic shops and Dark Horse books found on the left side of Johnson, but don't forget or miss the well-stocked Ditch Records.

Amongst the racks are titles by Hunter Thompson Unlimited, a little local output factory with several titles. The factory publishes the well-drawn violence of *Champions of Hell*, and for those who prefer the humourous – *50 Uses for an Astro-Mech Droid*. The latter includes a battering ram, waste basket and pimp. All illustrated, of course.

Further down the shelves, you might find *Whiskey Lollipop*, a zine featuring dark poetry and prose. If you seek darkness, look no further than *Red Gallery*, which even includes a variety of surreal cut-and-paste pin-ups for your locker or fridge. A darker alternative look on life seems to be the main focus of most locally produced zines, but there are exceptions. Activism-issues are well-covered in *The Sleeping Dragon* – a newspaper-style fold-out that you can pick up for free. Its contents include local activism and related issues. We also have complementary up-island fare such as the Qualicum Beach-based *Arachnia*, which contains music reviews, interviews, fiction and comics in a nice package. Other options are *Rubber Popsicle Factory*, filled with unusual little drawings, comics, and words. Going back in time, you can pick up back issues of *Magic Teeth* which features creations by Chris Eng. Eng's characters have often graced the issues of *Offbeat*.

For those who have difficulty leaving campus, other options are available. For your own well-being pick up the latest copy of *Broken Pencil* at SUBtext, or check out their website at www.brokenpencil.com. *Broken Pencil* is Canada's fine zine resource, which lists/reviews various zines from all over the country. This way you can order zines through the mail without ever having to leave your cubicle in res. So head downtown, or to SUBtext, or sit by your computer with a mind ready for local culture. If these publictions fail to meet your taste, you might follow the steps of the UVic writing students who founded Smoking Lung Press – go start your own.

# FICTION: Only Colder

**by Rob Woolridge**

The next morning Luang knocked on the door of my cabin with two surfboards.

"Canadian Mark. I show you for a bit. Here." He was wearing that weird smirk again. The kind only a 12-year-old can wear. I noticed how it pushed the part of that scar by his mouth out in a gentle arc when he flashed it. He passed the smaller of the boards over to me. "Easier to learn."

We walked out in front of the cabins into the ocean until we were deep enough to lie on the boards and paddle. The ocean floor was rough dead coral, very sharp on your feet. The water, shallow here, was already warm from the sun's heat. In ten minutes we had paddled out far enough to hook left and catch the back end of the breaking surf.

"You just paddle quickly when the wave comes, then try to stand up." Just like that Luang was off, arms giving three or four strong strokes through the water. A second later he was up on the board, coasting along the breaking wave, his head coming into view then disappearing under the curl. I looked over my own shoulder and saw a monster about to crash over top of me. In watching Luang, I had coasted forward to the break point. My board suddenly picked up speed as the wave broke underneath me. I froze. Clinging to the board I flew in until the wave passed under me and I slowed down. The next wave broke right above me and crashed into my lower back knocking me off my board. The warm taste of salt-water filled my mouth and I lost my bearings under the water. Finding up, I pushed myself to the surface, but another wave pushed me back down before I could take a breath. Down again, I could feel the water pulling me in multiple directions. The board strapped around my ankle tugged me to shore while the water fought against itself. I no longer knew which way was up, which way to the shore. Just this churning wrath, the sound low and loud in my ears. I felt arms come across my chest and lock in place and I was heaved upwards and back into daylight. I stood in two feet of water. Luang in front of me laughing, his eyes alight.

"Holy shit." I looked at him, my lungs heaving. He was still laughing. "It's not funny."

We walked back to the beach, boards under our arms, Luang doing his best to hide the smile. "You just hop up at right time," he said. We continued around the side of the break to paddle out and start again.

"I have to go work," he said when we got near the beach.

"What?" I asked. "That wasn't a lesson."

"Just relax. You get it."

I spent the rest of the afternoon trying to do it. After a few trips in on my stomach I got the timing down and was able to ride the wave all the way in. A few trips more and I was coasting in on my knees. But after that, my progress halted. I couldn't seem to stand up, and the few times I did, I was off the board in a second. My arms lifeless and heavy from paddling, I got back to my hut and found Luang on the porch.

"Any luck, Canadian Mark?"

"I can tell by that look that you already know." His smile grew. "I thought you had to work?" I asked.

"Done 'til dinner." It was about 4:30, the sun already crested and on its way down. I could see one of the girls struggling with a large pot of water towards the kitchen. She balanced it on her hip, and the weight gave her that strange gait, like a limp. In the cabin next to mine, about twenty metres away, two men I recognized from the surf were peeling off their wet-suits and hanging them to dry on the railing of their front porch.

"Luang, why's this place called Oikhoda? What's that mean?" He looked at me with a puzzled frown.

"That's family name."

"I thought yours was Ratu?"

"Ratu is family name for me. Oikhoda's take me in when my parents die." I looked at him, shocked.

"I'm sorry. You said that your mother does the cooking, so I thought..."

"Everyone is family here. All brothers and sisters." He smiled when he said it and I couldn't help laughing.

"You sound like a Bob Marley song," I said. Now he laughed.

"Bob Marley. Ganja." I laughed harder, realizing how close we were in age after all. He stayed on my porch until he had to help with dinner. I told him I had expected to pick up surfing quickly because I snowboarded. He didn't know what that was so I explained it to him, filtering the sand through his fingers to show him the grainy snow in Ontario: like this only colder.

# Realité Bites: poems for food

**by Debbie Willis**

Apple crumble for some words?

How is an English degree going to put food on the table? "Eat a Poem" strives to answer this question. Fresh-baked apple crumble will be the reward handed out to anyone willing to get imaginative for an energetic foursome.

UVic pro-arts group, Realité will be giving out homemade apple crumble in exchange for a poem, drawing or quote this Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Clearihue, where the a and b wings meet. The event, humourously christened "Eat a Poem," is the first of several "Reality Checks" organized by Christopher Bratseth, David Crow, Erik Hanson, and Val Litwin, all behind a project they named Realité.

The original idea for "Eat a Poem" sprung from a time when David Crow and Erik Hanson, jobless and bored, decided to pick blackberries from the Galloping Goose and apples from their backyard. The two mixed the fruit with cream and sugar and sold it for a dollar a bowl at the UVic fountain. This positive experience lead to more ambitious projects.

"We want to shock people with it," said Litwin. "People will walk by and go, 'Holy smokes, you want me to write you a poem?'"

Food for thought is an equal but different exchange claimed Hanson. Because the trade is not monetary, the event forces people to re-examine the world aroung them: In essence, according to Bratseth, eating poetry is more than just a cute idea.

"It will be a neat way for people to step out and challenge their fears," he said, referring to the hesitation many feel about getting up in public and expressing themselves creatively. "I'll be standing on the table reading!"

The event is an alternative to dolling out creativity pills to students.

"We're feeding their souls," stated Val. "Words manifest into food. It's a magical opportunity."

SHOW REVIEW:

# Gangway to the 50s

**by Leanne Dmyterko**

What could possibly draw a large, eclectic mix of people decked out in western and 50s garb to Lucky Lounge on a cold Thursday evening?

Cousin Harley and the James Gang. The unique musical stylings of this Victoria-based band are definitely crowd-drawers.

As the lights dim and the band begins their first set, there is an overwhelming sense of awe that spreads as the audience becomes aware of the musical energy onstage. To witness the Gang in performance is to partake in the group's enthusiasm. These guys are passionate about their music, and it shows all the way through their two-hour performance. The evening showcased a mix of high-energy original songs by the Gang, along with a few favourites by other artists.

"We take traditional rockabilly songs and zip it up to change the style." says front man Paul Pigat, who also writes many of the songs.

These songs may initially seem to be a tribute to 50s-style rock. However, Pigat has endeavoured to introduce a modern tangent to this otherwise classic music era. In combination with an insistent beat from bassist extraordinaire James Taylor and drummer James Hope, the group producesd what Pigat describes as "western twang rockabilly."

The band draws its influences from Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley and Link Wray (godfather of '50s rock), to name a few.

The group produces a sound that is fluid, zealous and emotionally-charged. With songs such as "Dustbowl Devil"(written about mainstream trailer-park culture), "Spaghetti No Sauce"(an instrumental western tune), and "Luisa" (a latin-style ballad), Cousin Harley and the James Gang vouch for their reputation as multi-faceted, diverse, and highly-skilled musicians.

All separately accomplished musicians, Pigat, Hope and Taylor together form an energetic up-and-coming group with a cool '50s charm and a great potential for success. Cousin Harley and the James Gang put on a show every Thursday at Lucky – be sure to check them out for yourself.


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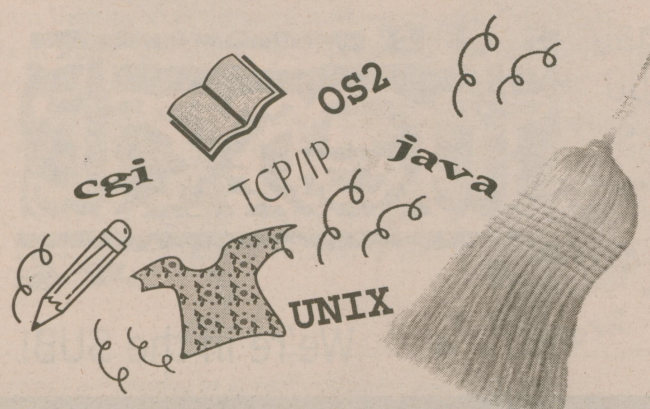


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REVIEWING *GIGI*

# Madame or Mademoiselle?

**by Colin Plant**

A young woman must choose either to have a career or be a wife. Sounds like a modern day dilemma doesn't it? Well it's not. It's the crucial decision facing a 16-year-old girl named Gigi in 1900 Paris. And her choice is between becoming 'employed' as a mistress, or facing a life of poverty.

Situated in the historical Rockland Avenue area, Langham Court Theatre (which is operated by the Victoria Theatre Guild) has established itself as a wonderful place for local community theatre, and Gigi, this year's first offering, proves to be no exception. However, those expecting the 1958 musical by Lerner & Loewe should be forewarned: this is the 1951 stage adaptation by Anita Loos of the famous story by Colette.

However, this tuneless version is far from flat: I think it's at least as good as the musical, feels much less dated, the performances on opening night were superb, and the overall production design was thoughtful and pleasing.

The plot is the same as the musical, although somewhat more sparse. Gigi's grandmother, the matronly Mme. Alverez, having failed to make a successful courtesan of Gigi's mother, has worked hard to keep Gigi fresh and malleable. With some help from her sister, the conspiratorial (and former mistress herself) Alicia de St. Ephlam, these two older women groom Gigi, filling her full of the wisdom that stood them well in their younger years; when women might have had fewer opportunities for successful independence.

The plan is simple: find a suitably wealthy admirer, who will set Gigi up in a household of her own, with enough money so that when his attention does finally wander, Gigi can sustain herself. Of course, the most obvious target is Gaston, an old family friend who happens to be one of the wealthiest young, or at least not-yet-middle-aged, playboys in all of Paris.

While the pace of the show was not brisk, the tale is from a more courtly era, and the story advanced regally, never dragging. Although Gigi is the title character, the real action is between Mme. Alvarez and Mme. de St. Ephlam. These two tough ladies conspire and plot and snipe, sometimes together, sometimes at each other. Both reject the advancing modern world with its cars and telephones and new possibilities.

Langham Court veteran Nan Long exuded the pleasant charm of a grandmother who still believes the old ways are the best ways, whatever they may be. As the more successful and more snobbish sister Mme. de St. Ephlam, Sylvia Rhodes was wonderfully waspish and proper.

Playing the title role was local ingénue Katie-Rose Petley. Her Gigi was much more a sheltered young lady than a little girl; bright and self-confident, mature enough to understand the implications of both sex and love. However, one cannot help noticing that Petley tends to only act while she's talking, and does not honestly react to her fellow actors inthe moment.

Gaston Lachaille, the centre of all the matron's machinations, was concisely played by Charles Forget as a happy-but-somewhat-harried playboy who had grown ready to settle down without knowing it. His costumes helped accentuate his high status and persona. Despite not having appeared onstage at Langham for 10 years, local theatre veteran Heather-Elayne Day seemed perfectly at ease in her role as Gigi's mother. Director Toshik Bukowiecki, who had not directed a show in 20 years has put together a fable that is both sociologically complex, yet sentimental and charming.

The set for *Gigi* requires two different locales: Alvarez's moderately furnished flat and the lavish flat of Alicia. Designer Sabine Orlik's movable set ably transferred the audience and cast to the varying locations while still having to deal with Langham Court's tight stage configuration. The only downside is that the transfer between the two locales takes too long. And although there is a dumbshow during each transition featuring the servants, you can only milk their libidos for so long.

The lighting and costumes served the production well, but the elderly women's wigs were atrociously unrealistic. Also unrealistic were the varying and inconsistent accents used in the play. I heard English, French and Canadian accents during the evening.

As airy as the story is, *Gigi* contains at its core a modern sensibility about the various paths women travel to gain personal power, about the choices humans can make about independence, and about adjusting to the ever-changing ways of the world.

Here's hoping that the rest of the season is as thoughtful AND entertaining.

*Gigi* plays until October 7. UVic students get special discounts. For tickets or more information call 384-2142.

photo provided

# The lighter side of dark: *This Business of Art*

**by Simon Glezos**

"Teenage-angst" or "small town dark" are words that describe musical group Tegan and Sara. However, according to Sara Quin, one-half of the musical duo, these topics are quite simply "not that interesting."

"I think Elvis Costello rocks," said Sara by way of explanation. "And I think that it's cool that I don't know anything about him. I don't want to know who he's sleeping with, or who he's married to, or what his cats are named, or what kind of house he lives in... that's not interesting to me. What is interesting is that I don't know any of that, and it would be interesting if they told me. What's uninteresting about people like me is that people already know everything about us. Or at least think they do."

So, newly committed to the idea of avoiding any discussion of Tegan and Sara's background, personal lives, or history, we (I) are (am) left with the question of what the hell am I supposed to talk about. Well, I suppose their music would be the most obvious place to start.

"My dad used to let me drive his car when I was a little kid. Like in a parking lot and stuff like that. And when I'd wake up on a Sunday morning and my dad would take me back to my mom's house for the week, all week long I'd be dying to drive again... That's how I feel about music. I just started doing it, and when I woke up the next morning, all I wanted to do was keep playing... So it sort of turned into an addiction."

An addiction that was clear from the duo's performance at Lucky Bar last Saturday night. The show, the final stop on their cross-Canada tour, blew the packed house away, as they played songs off their new album *This Business of Art*. With only two acoustic guitars and their voices, the pair created an explosive performance, weaving folk, rock and miscellaneous music genres. Their lyrics were alternately passionate, wry, contemplative, caustic and sentimental.

The same could also be said for their on-stage banter, a meandering combination of storytelling and mock sibling rivalry. Topics included a young Tegan's trip to patroller camp, Sara's conversation with a man whose wife had died of cancer and the band's recent jettisoning of artisitic integrity. ("I don't know if you all heard, but we sold out recently, so we're all about money now," Sara quipped after informing the audience that their t-shirts were for sale).

The enthusiastic audience's reaction was indicative of the duo's rapidly rising popularity. With increased radio play and a video on MuchMusic, Tegan and Sara seem primed to become the rarest of breeds, Canadian celebrities, an idea which Sara was quick to deny.

"I'm not famous. I'm like that girl that did that car wash commercial. I'm not famous for what I do, I'm famous because someone saw me on MuchMusic. We're not really famous, we're just recognizable."

In dealing with the increased media attention, Sara expressed a certain frustration at the way in which all news articles seem to be the same.

"I have a theory on that. When the record company sends out the same picture to everybody, I feel like it creates a mood. And so all these people write about us based on that picture." One of the most common labels placed on their music is the word 'dark', something Sara spends a lot of time trying to refute.

"We were doing this interview for a teen magazine and the girl says 'So your album is really dark, you have a lot of angst, where do you think that comes from?' and Tegan was like 'You've got to be joking me! Have you actually analyzed any of Britney Spears lyrics? They're like teen suicide songs. 'Hit me baby one *more time?*' '*My loneliness is killing* me?'... these are sad lyrics. And then you look at our music and they're about being strong and giving the middle finger to everyone."

"I think I'm just going to try to make a more positive album next time," said Sara. "Like blatantly positive... even if the album is full of depressing songs, I'm going to make all the songs named like 'High on E, had the best time of my life.'"

In the end, Sara seemed simply uninterested in her role as an emerging icon. "If there's people there and they're enjoying it, my job is done. If I get paid at the end of the night, Halle-fuckin-lujah."

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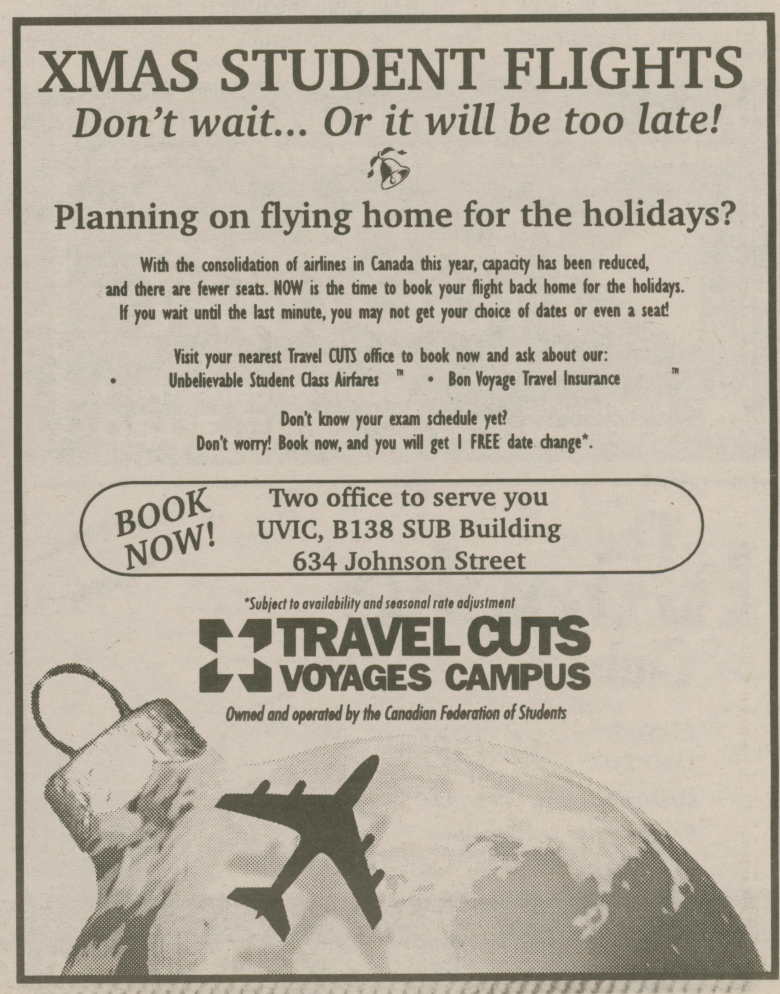
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# The Eric Lamaze story: part one

## Cocaine, show jumping and the great olympic hypocrisy

by Jeremy Shragge

photo provided

Banned Canadian show jumper Eric Lamaze and his championship mount Millcreek Raphael.

You have to feel for Eric Lamaze, you really do. As the reigning Canadian National Show jumping champion, Lamaze was arguably Canada's best shot at winning a gold medal in the equestrian competition at the Sydney Olympics.

Kicking ass and taking names at events all summer (including a first place showing at the Olympic qualifying trials in July), Lamaze was well on his way to realizing every amateur athletes dream: Olympic glory. Then, at the end of August, his world fell apart.

On Aug. 18, the champion rider tested positive for ephedrine, a banned stimulant. As it turned out, Lamaze had unwittingly ingested the chemical in a dietary supplement; nevertheless, the result represented the second time Lamaze had failed a drug test, and was, therefore, punishable by an automatic lifetime ban by the Canadian Equestrian Federation (CEF).

Lamaze had been removed from the Canadian Olympic team just days prior to the 1996 Atlanta games when he tested positive for cocaine.

The situation was shaping up to be a severely nightmarish case of déja vu. But, as it often does, Fortuna's wheel spun in the opposite direction, and on appeal, Lamaze's ban was lifted. He was immediately reinstated by the CEF.

Unfortunately, things were about to get a lot worse for the Montréal native. On Sept. 20, Lamaze was delivered another lifetime ban by the CEF's governing body for failing yet another drug test. This time the offending substance was (once again) cocaine, and, as had happened at the 1996 Olympics, he was banished from the games by the Canadian Olympic Association (COA).

Now, on the surface, it would appear that Lamaze got what he deserved. He broke the rules (as well as the law), knew the consequences, and thus, as some have argued, ought to have accepted his punishment quietly, without complaint. Like many things in life, however, the situation was not that simple.

To make a long story short, through strength of spirit and confidence built through his interest in equestrian, Eric Lamaze changed himself from a destitute Montréal street punk into a world class athlete.

> Lamaze "had reacted in a near psychotic fashion, having lost all perspective and all judgment and having been totally influenced, beyond his control, by his despair."
>
> *Drs. Adrian Harnick and Howard Cappell*

And so when he discovered that he had been delivered a lifetime ban on jumping (the first time), he went a little off the deep end: he fell into a deep depression, got loaded and, according to his story, smoked a joint laced with cocaine.

Then, the unthinkable happened – a miracle of Mosaic proportions. The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES), the body that administers the drug testing of Canada's putative Olympians, reversed its decision. 'Oops,' they said. 'It seems that the manufacturer of the supplement changed their formulation and forgot to list the ephedrine on the label. Sorry Eric, you can compete in the Olympics after all. Oh, and by the way, you're going to have to undergo another drug test before you leave for Sydney.'

It would have been fascinating in that highway-carnage-rubbernecking kind of way to have seen Lamaze's reaction when he learned of his reinstatement – after his brief tryst with nose candy. I suspect that it would have gone something along the lines of, 'that's great news... um ... oh shit!' For those with a more sadistic sense of humour, the scene is reminiscent of John Belushi's famous line: "That's not bad luck, that's dumb luck!"

At the end of August, Lamaze dutifully submitted another urine sample for testing after being reinstated and after his coke binge, and on Sept. 7 he was handed his second lifetime ban in under a month.

After putting him on a suicide watch, Lamaze's lawyer, Tim Danson, requested that the CCES hold an appeal hearing. They agreed, and Sept. 18 adjudicator Ed Ratushny, a University of Ottawa law professor, reversed the ban. He cited "a rather bizarre and tragic sequence of events," i.e., the initial ban precipitated by the positive ephedrine test.

In his ruling, Ratushny recalled the testimony of psychiatrist Adrian Harnick and psychologist Howard Cappell who collectively concluded that, in reaction to the Aug.18 interdiction, Lamaze "had reacted in a near psychotic fashion, having lost all perspective and all judgment and having been totally influenced, beyond his control, by his despair."

The pair also added: "It is evident that, had Mr. Lamaze not suffered this earlier 'ban for life' from equestrian competition, he would not have come to be in his present equally distressing circumstances. It is evident that, at the time of the cocaine ingestion, Mr. Lamaze had been in a total state of lost self-control and had been totally without his previous good judgment." In other words, the poor shmuck was so out of his head, due to someone else's fault, that he deserved a little slack.

Not surprisingly, there were many who disagreed, including the COA which ruled on Sept. 20 that Lamaze would not be permitted to join the Canadian Olympic team in Sydney. They ruled that Lamaze was in direct contravention of the COA's athletes' agreement, which he had signed earlier in the summer. That contract forbids the use of, amongst a myriad of other substances, cocaine and other recreational drugs – although, interestingly enough, not alcohol.

The day the COA made its final decision, Lamaze held a news conference and announced that he was giving up the fight and was content (officially) to accept the ruling and watch the games on tv.

Despite this concession of defeat, however, the ethical argument still rages. There is more to this story than just an athlete's lifestyle choices. The events surrounding the removal of Eric Lamaze from the Canadian Olympic team reveal the thorough hypocrisy and moral arrogance that pervades Canadian amateur sport.

# CIAU scores and standings

**Women's field hockey: Canada West Tournament**
**Sept. 22 - 24 at Calgary**

**Friday's result:**
UVic 0, Calgary Dinos 0

**Saturday's result:**
UVic 2, Alberta Pandas 0

**Sunday's results:**
UVic 5, Manitoba Bisons 0
UVic 2, UBC T-Birds 2

**Final standings:**

| | W | L | T | P |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Victoria** | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| UBC | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Calgary | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Alberta | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Manitoba | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

** UVic wins on goal differential.

**CIAU field hockey national rankings**

Last week's rankings in parenthesis:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Toronto | (1) |
| 2. UBC | (2) |
| 3. Victoria | (3) |
| 4. Waterloo | (4) |
| 5. Alberta | (5) |
| 6. York | (6) |
| 7. Calgary | (7) |
| 8. New Brunswick | (8) |
| 9. Carleton | (9) |
| 10. St. Mary's | (NR) |

**Canada West soccer**

**Sept. 23 at Saskatoon**
**men:**
UVic 3, Saskatchewan 0
**women:**
UVic 2, Saskatchewan 1
**Sept. 24 at Edmonton**
**men:**
UVic 2, Alberta 0
**women:**
UVic 1, Alberta 1

**CIAU women's soccer national rankings**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. McGill | (3) |
| 2. Calgary | (2) |
| 3. York | (1) |
| 4. UBC | (7) |
| 5. Laurier | (NR) |
| 6. Dalhousie | (NR) |
| 7. Ottawa | (NR) |
| 8. Victoria | (9) |
| 9. Laurier | (6) |
| 10. St F.X. | (NR) |

**CIAU men's soccer national rankings**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Toronto | (3) |
| 2. UBC | (2) |
| 3. McGill | (1) |
| 4. Victoria | (5) |
| 5. St. Mary's | (6) |
| 6. Dalhousie | (4) |
| 7. Laurier | (NR) |
| 8. Western | (7) |
| 9. Concordia | (NR) |
| 10. Laurentian | (NR) |

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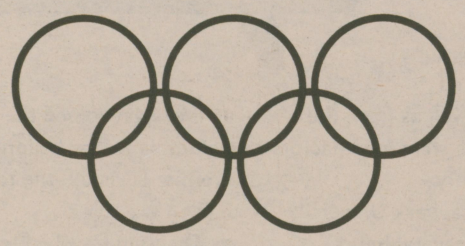
# UVic students past and present make their mark Down Under at Sydney 2000



**by Dena vanDalfsen**

While most of us are preoccupied with the everyday things life entail, current and former UVic students and fellow Victorians have had their minds on other things. What follows is a look at how our neighbours are doing in Sydney.

### Women's rowing

UVic alumni Buffy Alexander and Teresa Luke were in the women's eight boat that was Canada's last hope for a medal in a rowing event at the 2000 Olympics. The Canadian boat crossed the finish line third to take the bronze behind Romania and the Netherlands. Luke and fellow eights sculler Emma Robinson were especially gratified with the win after taking fourth in the pairs event. Another UVic rower from days gone by, Kristin Wall, finished second in the single sculls Race C final.

### Men's rowing

Derek Porter didn't disguise the fact that he was disappointed with his Olympic final finish. Victoria's Porter was a favourite to win the men's single sculls event failed to make the podium and came up with a fourth place finish. Past Vikes, Gavin Hassett and Chris Davidson were part of the Canadian lightweight coxless four boat that placed first in the Race B final. Other UVic alum, Adam Parfitt was in the men's eights boats that took the top spot in the Race B final.

### Women's swimming

Christin Petelski, who finished 10th and 13th in the 100m and 200m breaststroke respectively swam the breaststroke as part of the Canadian medley team which placed 6th, 9.25 seconds behind the first place American team.

### Women's mountain biking

Canadian medal hopeful, Victoria's Alison Sydor did not finish as well as anticipated. At the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Sydor took the silver medal at the first games where mountain biking was an official sport. Now in 2000 Sydor had to settle for fifth place nearly three minutes behind gold medallist Paola Pezzo of Italy.

### Men's mountain biking

Current UVic student Geoff Kabush has made his mark on the Olympic stage finishing the mountain bike race among the top ten. While all the people at CBC were talking about Victoria's Roland Green being Canada's top competitor in the cross country event, UVic's Kabush worked hard to finish ninth, coming across the finish line just under two minutes before Green who finished 14th.

### Women's basketball

Kelly Boucher and Karla Karch, who once reigned at McKinnon gym were part of the Canadian team that fell 67-58 to Cuba in the ninth place classification game.

### Men's basketball

While every other basketball fan was talking about Vince Carter's spectacular dunk, Canadian fans and more precisely those from Victoria were talking about SMU graduate Steve Nash and Canada's victory over Yugoslavia in men's basketball on Monday. The Canadian men will meet France in the quarter-final match on Thursday (Wednesday night Victoria time). Eric Hinrichsen who graduate from the Vikes in 1998 is also on the team.

### Men's field hockey

Sean Campbell and Rob Short, graduates of the men's field hockey program here at UVic are part of the Canadian men's field hockey team that takes on Poland in a ninth to 12th place classification match.

# New name, new image

## The UVic dance company moves away from stereotypes

**by Dena vanDalfsen**

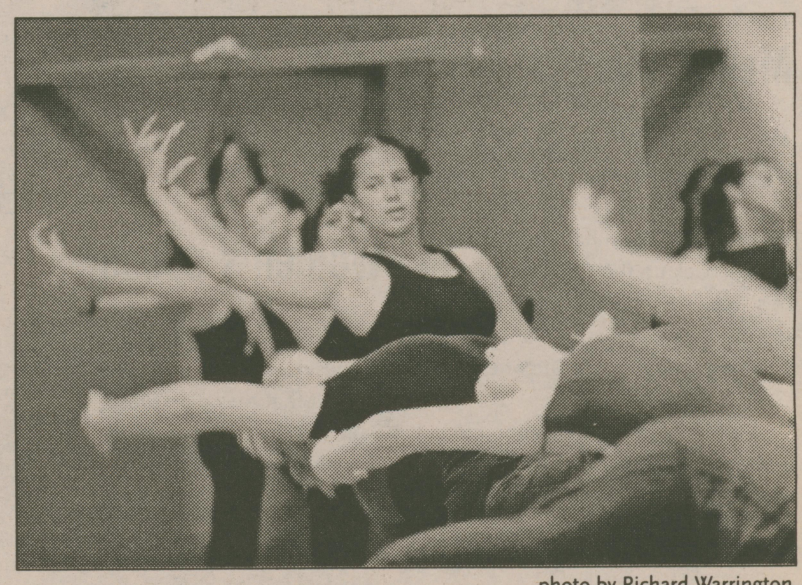


photo by Richard Warrington

UVic Dance Company members warm up at the barre for practice.

No longer called the Bomb Squad, members of the UVic Dance Company hope to create a new image to go along with the new name.

For the average UVic student, mentioning the dance company conjures up images of high-energy, flashy performances at half-time during men's basketball games.

"We want to move away from that image," said instructor Shawna Rodger. The dance company is going to spend this year concentrating on developing the artistic side of their dance.

The dance company was approached by the Athletics department two years ago to do the half-time performances. "The program is supposed to be upbeat," said Rodger.

"A 'bring it on' cheer dance." In the end the dance company "was a little bit too much tits and ass for the Athletics department," said Helene Cornell a member of the team for four years.

Don't expect to see the dance company bolstering basketball fans this year. "We were held back by the restrictions of Athletics," said member Alana Beyer. Without having to present themselves as peppy cheerleaders, the dance company can concentrate on learning and developing new styles of dance.

The 25 dancers in the company were chosen from 70 women who auditioned at the beginning of the year. The average dancer in the company has 10 years experience and all the members come from very diverse backgrounds, including ballet, jazz, hip hop, funk, modern, tap, highland and flamenco dance. Rodger and her co-instructor Jenni Joorisity would like to get up and teach their specialty. "We want to bring out all the talent," said Rodger. "We want to expand everyone's knowledge and abilities.

The company practices together six hours a week and many spend even more hours dancing on their own. What's all the practice for? "Mainly we're dancing to keep up a lifestyle," said Rodger. She explained that after high school most of the dancers in the company were faced with a choice – higher education or pursue a dancing career. They chose to go to university but because dancing is an essential part of who they are, the dance company gives these students the opportunity to continue with their art form.

When it comes to public performances, the company has moved from the gymnasium into the theatre. Though performance venues for the company are limited, some members will be performing as an extension of the Student Alternative Theatre Company (SATCO).

The company also gives back to the community through dance showcases with local rec centres and through workshops where the women promote an active, fit lifestyle. The company is looking into performing at local festivals but has run into scheduling problems.

When these women aren't busy, dancing or going to class, you might find them fundraising. The team has held socials at nightclubs, sold food and entertainment books, and offered a candy-gram service in order to supplement the funds they receive as a club in order to cover the costs of performing.

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# Your favourite UVic sports in brief...

**compiled by Jeremy Shragge and Dena vanDalfsen**

## Men's soccer

After dropping from first to fifth place in the national coaches poll last week, the University of Victoria men's soccer team has begun to inch its way back up the CIAU rankings. In this week's survey, the Vikes garnered the number four position after claiming their first two victories in Canada West play.

A week following a disappointing 2-0 loss in their season opener against the UBC Thunderbirds, the Vikes hit the road this past weekend on a two province, two game swing through the Prairies.

Saturday's 3-0 defeat over the winless, cellar-dwelling University of Saskatchewan Huskies, and Sunday's 2-0 blanking of the University of Alberta Golden Bears gave the Vikes sole position of third place in the Canada West standings.

At Saskatoon, Vike's forward Chris Caveiro potted two goals, with midfielder James McQueen counting for the third. Twenty-four hours later and 350 miles down the Yellowhead, Victoria dispatched the Bears behind the strength of a pair of Jason Owen strikes.

The first two wins of the season give the Victoria side seven points, one behind the undefeated University of Calgary Dinos and UBC T-Birds – both of which stand with two wins and one tie.

The Vikes will look to improve upon their national and conference standings this weekend when they host both the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns (Saturday) and Dinos (Sunday) at Centennial Stadium. Start time for both matches is 2 p.m.

## Women's soccer

Women's coach Ian Bridge said last weekend's trip was successful in the fact that they didn't lose. Saturday the team was at the University of Saskatchewan. "We didn't play well," said Bridge. "Saskatchewan was more aggressive. They we're getting to the ball first."

With goals scored by second year striker Wanda Rozwadowska and first year forward Carey Gustafson in the last 20 minutes the Vikes managed to get the win 2-1 over the Huskies. The Huskie goal was scored by Jenine Stangier.

On Sunday the team played much better and garnered a 1-1 split with the University of Alberta squad.

"It was our best performance as a team," said Bridge. Rozwadowska had another goal for the Vikes and Aisha Alpha had the Golden Bears' goal. The weekend improved the women's Canada West record to 1-0-2.

Bridge would like to win both games this weekend when Lethbridge and Calgary visit Centennial Stadium.

"Lethbridge looks to be the weakest team in our league," said Bridge. He hopes an easy win on Saturday will help the women face a tougher Calgary squad an come out of the first half of the season unbeaten.

## Field hockey

The CIAU women's field hockey season kicked off in fine fashion this past weekend for the University of Victoria Lady Vikes.

Hosted by the University of Calgary, the first Canada West conference tournament of the year was captured by the Victoria squad.

At the end of play on Sunday afternoon, both the Vikes and the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds had identical 2-0-2 records. Victoria got the nod due to their superior goal differential: plus seven versus plus five.

The Vikes' two wins, 2-0 and 5-0, came against the University of Alberta Pandas and the University of Manitoba Bisons, respectively. An opening night nil-nil tie against the host Dinos, and a 2-2 draw versus UBC on Sunday completed the schedule.

The solid play of goalkeeper Janet Filipenko (only two goals against with three shutouts) greatly contributed to the number three ranked Vikes retaining their position in this weeks' national coaches poll. Rachel Peters and Sara Simpson both netted a pair for Victoria over the course of the weekend.

According to Vikes head coach Lynne Beecroft, strong collective performances from fifth year players, such as Filipenko, Meggan Hunt and Anna Grimes (who scored against UBC), as well as from the team's five rookies were huge factors in the narrow victory.

Having to play a weak University of Manitoba side several hours before, the number two ranked Thunderbirds contributed to the tight finish, said Beecroft. "Its very hard to play two games in one day."

Dismissing the Vikes' clear superiority over the less experienced Bisons, she added, "You can't just expect them to roll over." As a result, said Beecroft, her team began to run out of steam late against UBC. This allowed the Thunderbirds to knot the game and rob the Vikes of a clear tournament victory.

As far as training objectives are concerned, the Victoria Skipper noted that, on top of fitness, "team defense is probably what we are going to focus on in the next few weeks... If you can't play defense, you're going to get burned."

The five-team Canada West conference clashes again on Oct. 6 to 8 at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

## Rugby

The men's rugby team is doing something a little different this year. The team will face stiffer competition as they have joined the British Columbia Rugby Union (BCRU) Premier Division–the top league in B.C.

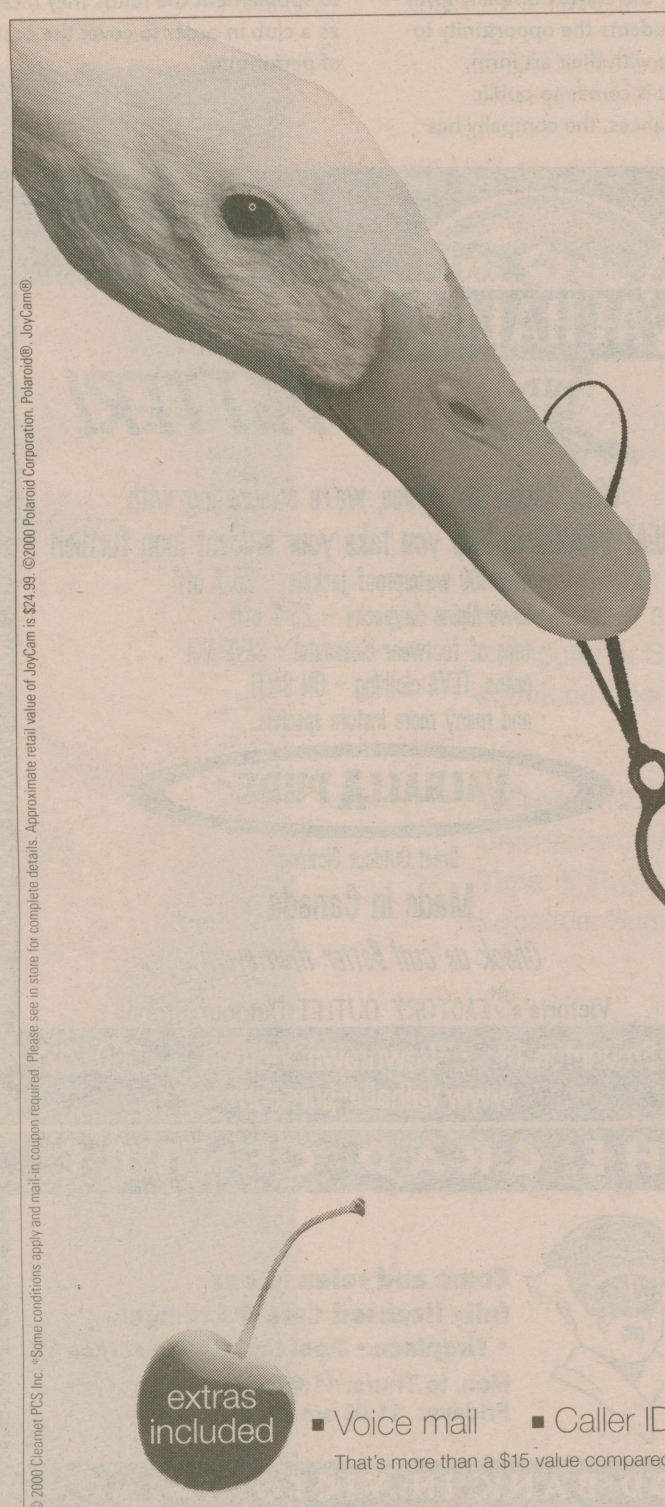
The men travelled to Vancouver to rack up their first win of the 2000-2001 season as they faced the Vancouver Rowing Club and came out on top 32-13. Coach Tate said the team is just getting a sense of the competition because it's all new. "We played well the first 20 minutes," said Tate. "But we were a little up and down."

On Saturday the Vikes will face UBC in the first game of the annual Whiteman Boot Cup – a two game series for total points.

The Vikes won the Boot Cup last year but Tate expects a close contest again this year.

"Most people would expect us to win because we are in a higher division," said Tate. "This game is always played with a lot of emotion and it's wide open."

The Vikes face UBC at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday at Wallace field.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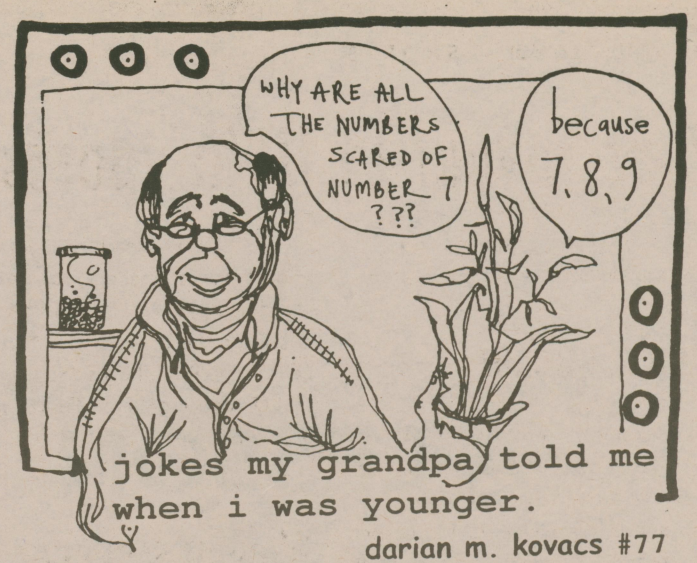
Goombas

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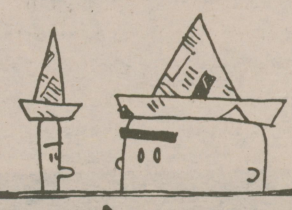

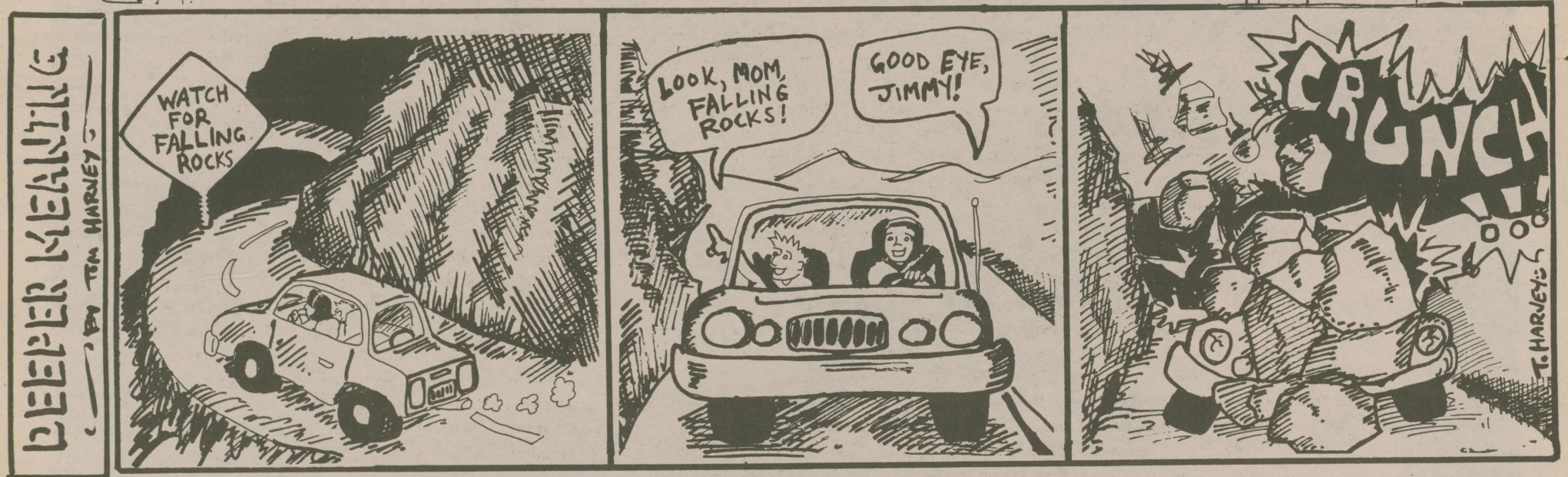


## ON CAMPUS

**Catholic Students' Association September events: Sunday Mass** – 4 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Parish, 4049 Gordon Head Rd. **Catholic Students' fall retreat – Sept. 29 - Oct. 1**. Grow in friendship and explore our spiritual life with other Catholic students at our fall retreat on Thetis Island. Cost is only $35 for the whole weekend. Registration limited to 42 students. Applications are available at the club table or at the Interfaith Chaplain's office, Room 142, Campus Services Building (next to UVic Bookstore).

**Big Radioactive Landmines: Canada, International Law and a Nuclear Weapons Convention**. Hear speakers working for a nuclear weapons-free world through the development of a model treaty for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Presented by The Simons Foundation, lawyers for social responsibility, and the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group. **Mon. Oct. 2**, 7 p.m. UVic's Centre for Innovative Teaching Building, rm. 105. Info: 721-8629.

**IVCF (Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship)** invites you to come out on **Fri. Sept. 30** to play **Capture the Flag** and have "Ring Out" with us. Meet at 6 p.m. at the fountain for Capture the Flag, or join us at 7:30 in CLE C112 for Ring Out!! We have **Bible Studies** too!! Tuesdays 7:30 p.m., 1187 Kings Rd. (Contact Meghan @ 381-9871); Wednesdays 7:30 p.m., 4053 Gordon Head Rd. (Tim @ 477-4673); Wednesday (Res Bible Study) 7:30 p.m., 3995 Gordon Head Rd. (Tyler @ 472-1790); Thursdays 7:30 p.m., 1772 Angola Place (Chris E. @ 920-9700).

**Fridaymusic**, at Phillip T. Young Recital Hall at 12:30 p.m. School of Music students perform something different every Friday. Admission by donation. For a weekly schedule update call 721-8559.

**Happy New Year! "L'shana tova."** CHAI Victoria – The Jewish Student Association sends wishes of peace and good health to all for the upcoming Jewish New Year. Our fall event calendar will be out soon. To join up or to find out more, e-mail us at jewish@uvic.ca or call the info line at 370-9488, ext. 2.

**Don't wait 'til you're stuck!** See the UVSS Ombudsperson. Problem-solving, referrals, academic appeals... SUB B205. Call 721-8357 or e-mail ombuddy@uvic.ca

**National Depression Screening Day**: **Thurs. Oct. 5** from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at UVic Health Services. UVic students, staff and faculty welcome.

## OFF CAMPUS

**Café Philosophy: Taking public philosophy to a new level.** Next topic: Relationship – Does the family/group create the individual? Do we need others to become who we are? When do relations become spiritual? **Wed. Oct. 4** at 7:30 p.m. at Torrefazione Italia (1234 Government St), Cover $4/$3 for students. **"Food for Thought"** pre-session starts at 6:30 p.m. Future topics will be listed weekly. For more info call Michael Picard, Ph.D., at 385-4646 or e-mail pyro@philosophy-shop.com

**Benefit show for the Socialist United Football Club, Fri. Sept. 29**, doors at 8 p.m. Run Chico Run, the Buttless Chaps "Restaurant Sessions," and dj Ride. Cost is $4. 1923 Fernwood.

## VOLUNTEERS

**Forming social group for young adults with learning disabilities.** Are you, or do you know of, a young adult who might be interested? Call Judy or Liz for more information 474-1230.

**Best Buddies**: volunteer with the developmentally disabled. For more information call Phyllis at 381-0113.

**George Jay Elementary would like to offer volunteer opportunities** to students who are pursuing a career in education or health care. We are looking for students who would like to gain some experience in a lively, culturally diverse, inner-city school community. Opportunities include assisting children in the classroom, supporting peer helpers on the playground, coaching sports, and leading lunch activities. Call Sue Bourque at 385-3381.

**Volunteers wanted** (male & female) **to work with groups of pre-teens in a fun-focused program for prevention of drug abuse.** One to two hours a week. Training provided. Two facilitators per group. Call Sylvia at 382-0627 or 388-7696.

**Enriching our community through friendship! Community Connections** reach out to persons who have a developmental disability, foster friendship, community inclusion and shared fun! Consider spending a few hours each week as a mentor and friend. Find out how you can make a difference! Call Citizen Advocacy today at 598-6786.

**Volunteer for Nature.** Volunteers are needed at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. Positions include: nature interpretation, trail building, nature house reception, and native plant gardening. Most positions require 2 to 3 hours per week and training is provided. To find out more call Joan at 479-0211 or check out www.swanlake.bc.ca

**Friendly young woman** with mild mental disability likes crafts and the gym. Call Bluma at 477-6607 for more info about this volunteer opportunity.

## TUTORS

**English/Philosophy**. Essay critique – proofreading, assignment discussion, etc. Enjoy learning but need a little assistance to fulfill your potential? I can help. Call Janet at 595-8438.

## FOR SALE

**Garage Sale! The Industrial Workers of the World** are having a fundraising garage sale in Fernwood Square. 9 a.m. **Sun. Oct. 1**. Great Stuff!

**Brotherhood of Anglican Churchman Annual Rummage Sale.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., **Sat. Sept. 30** at St. Luke's Church Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill Cross Rd. White elephant, used clothing, books, tools and furniture.

**Rocky Mountain Hardtail Mountain Bike,** custom 17.5" frame, all-new XT components, Z-3 bombers. $1,500 o.b.o. Call 598-3926.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's CIBC Run for the Cure, Sun. Oct. 1**, Beacon Hill Park playing field. Run or walk a 5 km or 1 km route. Raise pledges for a chance to win valuable prizes. Registration forms available at CIBC branches, YM-YWCA and the Running Room. Pre-registration is strongly recommended. Info: 1-800-618-CURE (in Victoria call 385-3328) or visit www.cbcf.org

**Miss the summer sun?** Try Sunspa! Great tanning package deal – $37.50/month until March 2001. For details call Lisa at (604) 612-7940.

**For Which We Are Thankful** (Sept. 28 - Oct. 11) – **The South Vancouver Island Potters Guild** celebrates Thanksgiving with this juried pottery show, which will include both functional and non-functional clay works. Opening reception **Fri. Sept. 29** from 8 - 10 p.m. The artists will be in attendance **Sat. Sept. 30 & Oct. 7** from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call Dianne Young at 721-0949.

**Records Services** wants your "Mailing Address." For information and instructions check your address on Webview (www.uvic.ca/reco) before **Dec. 15**.

**Licensed Day-care near UVic.** 2 spaces available immediately. 721-3320.

**Pottery Classes available.** Six 2.5 hour classes, $140 + GST. Call 383-5446 for more details.

## HELP WANTED

**"Campus representatives wanted."** 60 hours worth of work per year. Make $2,000 in extra CASH. We pay you to travel. Soquick.com Travel 1-888-274-8880, ask for Robert.

**Exited sex workers wanted** for confidential health research survey. Must have been out of the sex trade for at least two years. $40 for 2 hour interview. Call PEERS at 388-6506.

## HEY YOU

In the words of the **Great Tulip** and in the spirit of **Eris**: "Boys are evil and girls are stupid."

**Satan says:** dictstactunderflow, along with something incredibly profound.

Happy **Mabon!** Now prepare yourself for Friday the 13th . . .

| BILLBOARD RATES | |
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| students & clubs | $2/issue |
| non-students | $2/line |
| businesses | $5.50/3 lines |
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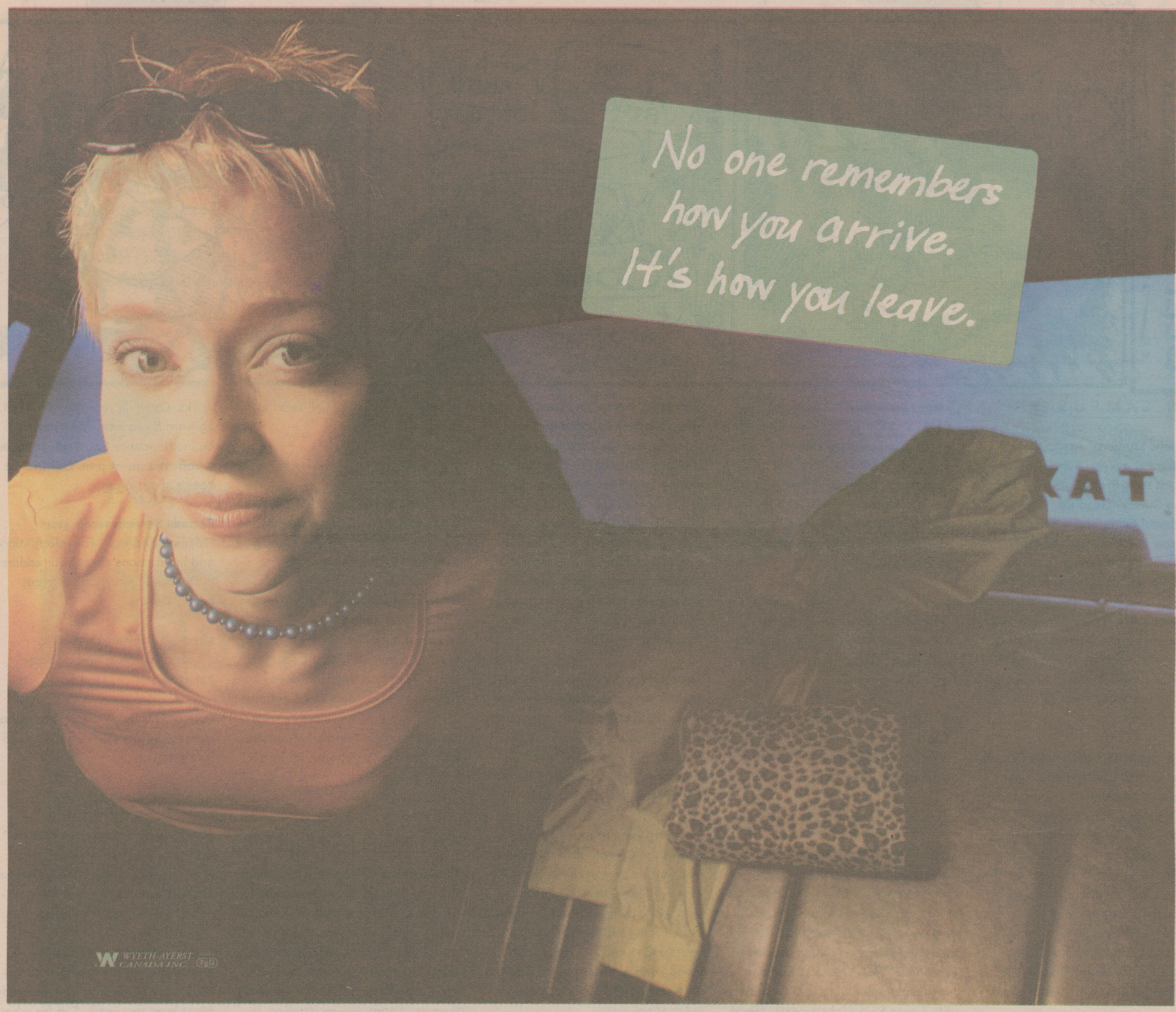
*"Everyone is welcome. We oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender and sexuality."*

# A LESSON
*in style*

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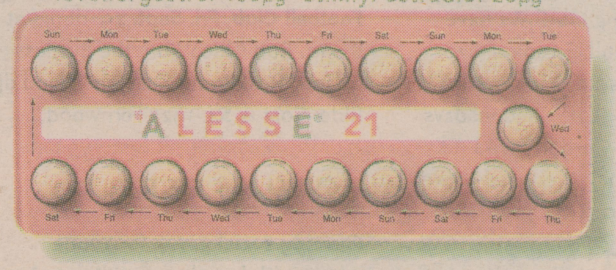


To learn more, ask your doctor.